

SIMON JENKINS

Why the government must learn to trust our professional teachers, p16

Take a friend to health club for a day

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What does your choice of supermarket say about you? page 15

20p

THE TIMES

No. 65,245

WEDNESDAY APRIL 19 1995

Ballot to be held on national strike

Parties unite to condemn NUT threat

By JOHN O'LEARY, BEN PRESTON AND PHILIP WEBSTER

TEACHERS threatening to strike over class sizes were condemned yesterday by their own union leader, who feared militants were taking over the NUT, and by all three main political parties.

Doug McAvoy, leader of the National Union of Teachers, accused left-wingers of living in a "fantasy world of unachievable aims, impossible goals and unattainable targets" after delegates at the union's conference in Blackpool defied the leadership and called for a ballot next month on a one-day national strike at the height of the examination season this summer.

In the Commons, too, both John Major and Tony Blair denounced the militants. The Prime Minister attacked "ideological" and "leftish" delegates, who, he said, David Blunkett, the Shadow Education Secretary, at the weekend, and the Labour leader said that a strike would be wrong and misguided. "The union's joint condemnation was endorsed by the Liberal Democrats, confirming that the teachers would be politically isolated if they voted to strike."

Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, also appealed for teachers to ignore the conference "both sides" and abandon thoughts of industrial action. She told the National

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Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers conference in Eastbourne that public regard for the profession would plummet if they disrupted children's education in defiance of parents, governors and politicians of all persuasions.

Widespread disruption nevertheless appears inevitable next term after a highly-charged Easter conference. As well as calling a ballot on a one-day strike, the NUT also voted yesterday for a series of local and national stoppages until the end of next year. The NAS/UTW will consider its strategy today.

The NUT vote — by 91,684 votes to 82,019 — for a one-day strike came in defiance of the union leadership and Mr McAvoy promptly launched an unprecedented public attack on some of the delegates. To jeers and accusations of betrayal, he said left-wing extremists were threatening the union and complained that the conference had become a jamboree of nit-picking and self-criticism. "There is no doubt the Socialist Workers' Party want to get their hands on the NUT. I am determined they won't."

The decision on a national strike would now rest with the ordinary members. "Who live in the real world, not a fantasy world of unachievable aims, impossible goals, unattainable targets. They are out there teaching, preparing, marking, planning their lessons, doing their best for their pupils. They are not immersed in the self-indulgent deception of permanent and unending revolution."

Tony Brockman of the union's executive had earlier advised delegates against committing its members to action they had no desire to take. "If you vote for a strike and then fail to deliver it, you will weaken the reputation of this union and you will let the Government off the hook." His executive colleague Jerry Blaxter also gave a warning that a strike would alienate parents, but other speakers said it was in parents' interest for the teachers to take action. Mark Boylan of Sheffield said: "A one-day strike, defending teachers, opposing oversize classes is the most professional thing we could do this summer." And Ron Haycock

of Waltham Forest said: "I will be telling the teachers at my child's school that they owe it to my child to go on strike."

Mr McAvoy said later that the ballot would be held next month, and the union would ensure that GCSE and A-level candidates would not be affected if the strike went ahead.

At Westminster, the Prime Minister regretted the ballot move and said he hoped teachers would decide that their job was to be in the classroom. A minority had let down their profession and he hoped the majority would show their disapproval.

Mr Blair, who has already inflamed left-wingers by shifts in his education policy, and his decision to send his son to a grant-maintained school, said that a strike would be wrong and misguided, but he also accused the Government of peddling its own brand of extremism by cutting education spending and refusing to fund the teachers' pay award.

Mrs Shephard meanwhile delivered "some home truths" to the NAS/UTW conference in Eastbourne. Teachers who took action would face universal opposition, she said. "The public wants to see that teachers are well disciplined. They want to see teachers setting a good professional example. They do not want to see more disruption in our schools."

Mr Shephard told a press conference: "The future of children's education and the professionalism of teachers is too important to be threatened by misplaced industrial action, whatever form it might take." Parents would no less accept their children being withdrawn from lessons on an hourly or daily basis than a one-day national strike.

Her remarks referred to the debate today when the conference is expected to approve a campaign that would involve sending some pupils out of large classes to be supervised elsewhere while normal lessons continued for the rest.

Mrs Shephard was warmly applauded for her speech to the conference, but Nigel de Gruchy, the union's general secretary, nevertheless insisted that teachers were right to challenge the Government's neglect of state education.

"Mrs Shephard's definition of professionalism is that of a wimp who is prepared to accept anything thrown at him. It is an honourable and professional thing not to accept this treatment. It is not professional for a teacher to go into a science laboratory with 20 pupils and have to teach 30 pupils."



Eric Cantona signs autographs for his fans at the Manchester United training ground in Salford yesterday

Cantona wins over the Salford boys

By KATR ALDERSON

FOR 15 minutes, they were the most famous team in the country.

Ellesmere Park Junior FC, a dozen boys from Salford who have no official strip or pitch and have played only three matches, became the first team to be coached by one of the world's most sought-after strikers, Eric Cantona, as part of his community service order for assault.

For two hours yesterday the boys, aged between nine and 12, were taught how to tackle, dribble and pass by their idol, at The Cliff, Manchester United's training ground in Salford. Afterwards the boys had nothing but praise for

Cantona, who successfully appealed against a jail sentence for assaulting a Crystal Palace fan in February. He told one boy, Simon Croft: "If you're going to get a yellow card, walk away and don't argue with the referee."

The boys spent the morning preparing for their training session with Les Harris, 53, their manager. He said most of the boys had been so excited about the coaching session they had been unable to sleep.

The team's minibus arrived at the training ground amid a light security. The boys, who were greeted by dozens of journalists and a crowd of about 50 fans who regularly

gather outside The Cliff to see their favourite players, were quickly taken to the indoor gymnasium. Under the supervision of Manchester Probation Service, Cantona then began his 120-hour community service sentence.

Paul Thompson, 12, described the moment when the boys met Cantona: "We were standing in the gym when Eric suddenly walked in and we just ran up to him cheering. He was totally brilliant," he said. "I've learnt tons from him today."

Liz Calderbank, the assistant chief probation officer for Greater Manchester, who attended the training session, said she thought it had been appropriately "hard and demanding" for Cantona.

"He is a footballer, not a coach, and training this many children who are not footballing experts is going to be very hard work," she said.

Lockerbie widow awarded £12m by US court

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT, AND BEN MACINTYRE

AN AMERICAN court yesterday awarded \$19 million (£12 million) to the widow of a man who died in the Lockerbie air disaster.

The award, the highest in connection with a flying incident, included \$9 million for loss of earnings, \$5 million interest, \$5 million loss of "companionship, love and affection", and \$14,000 for loss of "services", including washing up and mowing the lawn.

Although the sums will be seen as setting a precedent for the other 200 victims of the bombing of Pan Am flight 103 seven years ago, it is unlikely that any British family suing through the US courts will receive such amounts.

But Lee Kriender, the American lawyer representing many British families, described the award as wonderful: "This is the highest so far. They are going to get higher."

Michael Pescatore, whose widow received the award, was 33 at the time and earning \$18,000 a year as vice-president of British Petroleum Chemicals of America. He was returning home to Ohio for Christmas from BP London's headquarters when the aircraft was blown up over the Scottish border town of Lockerbie on December 21, 1988. He was one of 270 who died in the disaster, including 11 Lockerbie residents.

The way was cleared for settlement of the claims in January, when the US Supreme Court ruled that Pan Am was guilty of "wilful misconduct" in failing to detect the bomb. Aaron Broder, who represented Pescatore's 38-year-old widow, Faith, said: "This award is particularly gratifying, as Pan Am's underwriters were digging their heels in. They offered Mrs Pescatore \$5 million, with

Continued on page 2 col 5

MEDIA TODAY

Brenda Maddox on the BBC's greatest victory: page 38

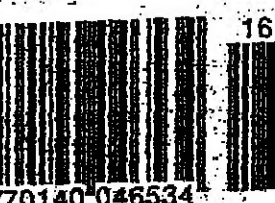
The Media page appears every Wednesday together with Fashion, Property, Simon Jenkins and Alan Coren

Tomorrow: the Books pages and new films of the week

Friday: the Valerie Grove interview and Infotech

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Animal protest turns violent

Three women were hurt during ugly exchanges between police and animal rights demonstrators at the Essex port of Brightlingsea yesterday after police used — for the first time in the three-month dispute over exports of live animals — the "unlawful assembly" provision of the 1986 Public Order Act. Twelve people were arrested. Page 3

Stockbroker fined record £200,000

The Securities and Futures Authority fined Greig Middleton, a private-client broker, a record £200,000 for breaches in raising money for a tax shelter scheme in which investors put up some £1m. Page 23

Winnie Mandela taken to hospital

FROM MICHAEL HAMLYN IN JOHANNESBURG

WINNIE MANDELA, the estranged wife of South Africa's President, was admitted to a Johannesburg clinic yesterday, apparently suffering from stress.

She announced on Monday that she was resigning from the South African Cabinet, a day before she was due to be officially dismissed as the Deputy Minister of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology. She pledged to continue working for the African National Congress.

Mr Mandela dismissed her after she was involved in a series of embarrassing incidents. She went to court to

challenge her sacking, prompting the President to re-hire her. But after consulting other party leaders, a constitutional requirement he had at first neglected, he dismissed her again. The order was to have become official yesterday.

Mr Mandela said he dismissed his wife, from whom he has been separated since 1992, in the interests of maintaining discipline in his fledgling Government.

A statement issued by Mrs Mandela's two daughters and her doctor, said she had been admitted for a rest. She was in good health, but would undergo an examination.

Intrepid Speaker braves tempest of the Atlas

By ALICE THOMSON, POLITICAL REPORTER

IT WAS a journey more suitable for Indiana Jones than the redoubtable Speaker of the House of Commons, Betty Boothroyd.

After a term spent having to deal with members accusing each other of swearing and swinging pickaxes, Miss Boothroyd decided to spend the Easter recess in Morocco, far from her rowdy charges.

The first few days passed calmly enough. She wandered through souks, haggled for carpets, ate couscous, did a little sunbathing, and pretended that she was not the formidable grande dame of British politics.

But on the last day of her stay Miss Boothroyd, who is 65, went for a picnic with friends among the almond groves in the High Atlas mountains. Driving back, in a

flimsy summer dress with nothing to protect her perfectly permed curls, she was caught in Morocco's worst storm in 20 years.

"The heavens opened, and it began to pour," she said yesterday. "Turning a particularly hair-raising bend, we suddenly saw the entire mountain crumbling in front of us."

The Land Rover was swamped in mud and immovable. The nearest Berber village was an hour's trek away over a swollen river, and it was getting dark. But, as Miss Boothroyd pointed out, anyone who had faced Michael Mates and Dennis Skinner in full spate in the House would not fear a mere landslide.

"I am very, very strict about the MPs not overstaying their holidays, and I will not take

excuses. I was determined to get back by Tuesday," she said.

She managed to crawl out of the Land Rover and get off to look for help in the hills. "I was absolutely soaked, and the roadside kept sliding away. Finally we got to a tiny hamlet where they were stunned to see us, but very polite. They immediately offered to go for help."

With the aid of their mules, which swam the rivers, the villagers got through to police in Marrakesh and explained that they had a Very Important Visitor drinking mint tea with them who needed an urgent rescue. "The police knew exactly who I was, because they had all watched satellite television," Miss Boothroyd said. "They came with a bulldozer to escort me

out." They got her back to Marrakesh just in time for a quick bath, a long drink, and the flight back to Britain.

She was in her chair at the beginning of Questions to health ministers yesterday when she realised that some MPs had failed to return from their holidays in time to put their questions.

Rising to her full 5ft 3in, she ticked off the missing members and insisted that they come and apologise to her when they returned. "I could never have done that if I was still stuck in the mud in Morocco," she said later.

Tony Banks, Labour MP for Newham North West, said, "She is like a female Lawrence of Arabia. She had to crawl through the sunroof because the doors were wedged in the mud, and spent



Boothroyd: "a female Lawrence of Arabia"

nine hours battling through the rain. She has gone from being a headmistress to a heroine... everyone is even more terrified of her now."

Politics, page 8

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THE CATS PROTECTION LEAGUE

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BY ANDREW PIERCE IN ST HELIER

Paul Marks, Deputy Chief Constable of Jersey, said there was no suspicion that he had taken alcohol, and he had not been breathalysed. The police were not conducting a crimi-



Penau: not suspended

Twenty-eight passengers remained in hospital in St Helier; 17 had had operations on broken limbs. They had

M Avierinos dismissed pas-

He has secured an agreement with ferry firms to cease using the narrow stretch where the accident happened until the inquiry is completed.

1 Escape route from deck to hull with "S" close to water-line

2 Aircraft style safety chute

The Government is enforcing the rules for catamaran ferries calling at British ports which in theory include the Channel Islands. In practice,

1990



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Weldon: married bliss



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20:18



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Bob Sparks wakes with a start and calls to pay his gas bill.

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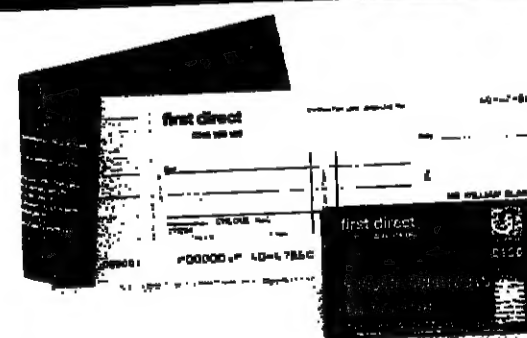
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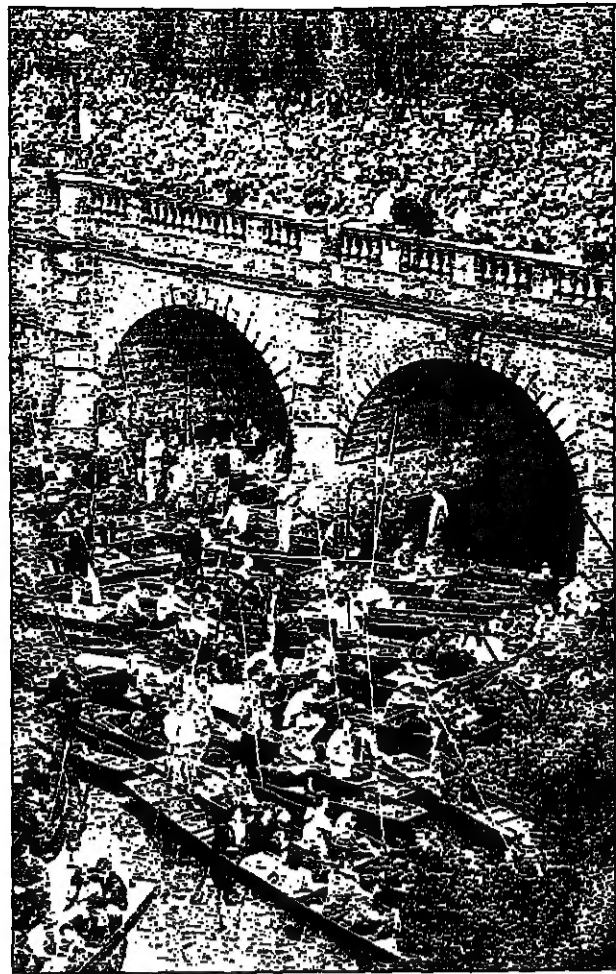
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Police, students and city council join forces to sober up May Day celebrations on Magdalen Bridge



1960: undergraduates gather to listen to the singing

Oxford plans crackdown on Shadowlands effect

By Emma Wilkins

POLICE are to try to limit the riotous excesses of the traditional May Day celebrations in Oxford to cut the number of drink-induced injuries caused by undergraduates jumping from Magdalen Bridge.

The dawn celebration after a night of partying has become so popular that up to 25,000 people flock from all over the country to egg on the students who decide to jump, often naked, rather than enjoy the more tranquil tradition of choral singing from the tower of Magdalen College. Last year 22 people were seriously injured by the 18ft drop into four feet of muddy Cherwell water. They included two men who suffered spinal and head injuries. In 1993 there were 15 serious injuries.

The tradition of choristers singing madrigals and a Te Deum from the top of Magdalen's Great Tower at 6am on May Morning is believed to date from the early 16th century. Police blame the film

Shadowlands for turning it into a national event. The film is about the life of C.S. Lewis, a fellow of Magdalen in the 1950s and author of the Narnia chronicles. It features a scene in which Lewis, played by Sir Anthony Hopkins, joins the May Morning crowd on Magdalen Bridge.

Inspector Steve Wilson of Thames Valley Police said yesterday: "Sadly, the memories that most visitors take home with them is of people in black ties who have drunk to excess through the night and who are left lying unconscious covered in vomit in the street."

Police have teamed up with the city council and student bodies to try to return the celebration to its former, more peaceful, status. This year, revellers will be under surveillance from police video cameras for the first time and a public address system will be used for crowd control. The annual Shotover Ball, which spills 5,000 revellers on to



Hopkins as C.S. Lewis

Oxford's streets on May Morning, is being moved five miles away to Ot Moor.

Inspector Wilson said: "We have received serious objections from residents and councillors who have seen for themselves the number of people who have been hurt in the crush or by jumping from the bridge. We still expect people to jump because when

they have had a few drinks their fear goes, but it is a dangerous thing to do."

There will be 30 officers at either end of the bridge to control the crowds while other officers monitor the celebrations with video cameras from the Botanical Gardens. Oxford council has produced leaflets and posters warning people of the dangers of jumping off the bridge. They will be distributed around pubs and off licences. The public address system, which will relay the singing into the city, will be used to warn the crowds against pushing and shoving. Hopi Sen, the university Students' Union president, backed the police actions. "We want to move away from the impression that people get of irresponsible Oxford students," he said.

A spokeswoman for Thames Valley Police added: "We're not party poopers. We want everyone to have fun but in safety. We don't want this year to be the one when someone dies."



1994: 22 were hurt jumping from Magdalen Bridge

Third candidate joins contest to head Law Society

By Frances Gibb, Legal Correspondent

THE contest for the presidency of the Law Society was joined by a third candidate yesterday when Henry Hodge, a leading member of the society's council and a legal aid solicitor, declared that he would also stand.

Mr Hodge, deputy vice-president of the society, is to seek the post after the withdrawal last week of John Young, the vice-president. Mr Young, the council's candidate, felt obliged to withdraw from the election amid allegations of sexual harassment by Eileen Penbridge, another council member and candidate for the presidency.

The emergence yesterday of Mr Hodge, whose wife is the Labour MP Margaret Hodge, the former leader of Birmmham Borough Council, adds interest to the first contested election in 40 years for the posts of president and vice-president of the society.

Mr Hodge and Ms Penbridge stand for the legal aid solicitor and the liberal wing of the council, and Martin Mears, the council member from Great Yarmouth responsible for forcing the election to its first ballot since 1954, for the right.

Mr Hodge, 51, a Law Society

council member for 11 years, said yesterday from his practice in Camden Town, north London: "I have been encouraged to stand for the presidency by a wide range of solicitors. The profession needs a wider choice than offered by the two other candidates. I don't believe they are representative. I want to unite the profession."

He said that the profession needed a Law Society that would promote the integrity of solicitors and the status of the profession, maintain good standards of remuneration and ensure the best service to clients. For that, it needed to be "strong, well led, and united". He was convinced that there was a need for changes at the society, "some evolutionary and some more radical".

Mr Hodge said that among some 50 action points he wished to pursue were the promotion of guideline fees for conveyancing and the case for legal aid work, and a 10 per cent cut in the practising certificate fee.

Mr Hodge has a long background in legal aid and civil rights work. He chaired Camden Citizens' Advice Bureau between 1983 and 1988.

The facts in

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The Times has combined with more than 150 leading health clubs to offer you the best introduction to a healthier lifestyle you're ever likely to encounter. Simply collect four of the tokens appearing daily until next Monday, and you can visit any participating club with a friend between April 22 and May 20 at a sensational special rate – you'll be charged just £5 and your friend will pay 20p, the price of Britain's best quality newspaper. At each club you visit, your name will also be entered in a draw to win a year's free membership.

Participating fitness centres include the Broadgate Club in the City of London (0171-375 2464), which provides an exclusive refuge for high-powered professionals. The club offers a comprehensive fitness programme combining nutritional advice with modern technology and traditional treatments such as Tai Chi and yoga, aromatherapy (massage with essential oils), Shiatsu (massage based on sensory pressure points) and reflexology (massage focusing on the reflex areas of the hands and feet).

Any number of clubs may be visited, but you must (1) telephone each club in advance quoting this offer, (2) present the voucher that appeared in yesterday's paper with four tokens attached (the voucher will be reprinted on Monday) and (3) be sure to take a friend along. A full list of participating clubs appeared in yesterday's paper.

THE TIMES

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THE TIMES WEDNESDAY APRIL 19 1995

Detectives suspect paedophiles of killing 9-year-old

By Stewart Trundle, Crime Correspondent

POLICE believe that Daniel Handley, the nine-year-old boy whose body was found in a shallow grave in the West Country, was the victim of paedophiles. He had been missing from his home in east London since last year.

Detective Superintendent Edwin Williams, leading the murder inquiry, said forensic tests and dental records had confirmed that the remains of a child found near Bristol last month were those of Daniel. He was last seen near his home in Beckton on October 2. Daniel's parents, who are separated, were warned when the remains were first discovered that it could be Daniel. Yesterday morning Machine Handley and his estranged husband David, who lives in Dagenham, east London, were told of the identification. Scientists cannot tell how the child died or how long his body had lain on open land.

Shreds of clothing suggest he was still dressed in the red boiler suit he was wearing when he vanished, and police believe he died soon after his kidnapping. Mr Williams said trying to find clues at the site had proved extremely difficult.

Police in London believe that over the past 15 years up to 20 children may have died at the hands of paedophiles. Mr Williams said police had



Daniel Handley

spoken to known paedophiles in the London area in connection with Daniel's death, but added: "It is quite unusual for them to murder. Murdering children is not one of the factors in their fantasies." He said that police had looked at the "other child murders linked to abductions, including those of Jason Swift, 14, Mark Tildesley, 7, and Barry Lewis, 6, at the hands of a paedophile ring in east London. A number of men were later convicted.

Mr Williams called for two men seen with Daniel on the night he disappeared to come forward. "I find it hard to accept that two men set out that day both with the intention of murdering Daniel. It is more likely that Daniel was taken for sexual purposes and that something went dramatically wrong."

In a direct appeal to the men

Mr Williams said: "If you were one of the men involved, it may well be that you have lived with the consequences of this deed on your mind since Daniel was abducted. How Daniel died or why Daniel died are facts known only to one or two people. Did things go much further than you bargained for? I need answers to these questions and more than anything else I need to prevent other people being placed at risk."

The detective said the men might now be too afraid to talk but he urged them to come forward before Daniel's kidnapping was repeated and another child hurt.

Mr Williams said the two men were with a silver or grey car with a square back. They were in Tollgate Road, Beckton, and one, aged 25 to 35, was standing by the open door of the car talking to Daniel. He was apparently showing him a book or map. The second man, who was older, was sitting in the car.



One of the studies of New Guinea moths and butterflies to be sold next month

Artist who caught beauty of jungle

By John Shaw

A GROUP of watercolours by an adventurous woman artist who caught the delicate beauty of tropical wildlife in New Guinea are to be sold in London next month.

The studies of butterflies and moths were done by Ellis Rowan (1848-1922) in 1917-18. She had stayed with German missionaries in the interior and was hospitably received despite the war in Europe.

Mrs Rowan's family had settled in Australia and her work was first exhibited in Melbourne in 1872. Over the next 20 years she achieved international recognition, travelling extensively within Australasia and then to India, Europe and North America. Queen Victoria asked for three pictures as a gift after a self-out exhibition of Mrs Rowan's work in London in 1896.

She first visited New Guinea in 1916 on a commission to produce a hundred flower paintings to be used as designs for Royal Worcester. Those pictures are now in the herbarium at Kew Gardens.

Mrs Rowan was in her late sixties when she visited for a second time, staying at the

German mission house on the coast before going inland by canoe with 20 porters to Pastor Stolz's mission house in the high country of the Bismarck Ranges. She did 300 sheets of flora, birds of paradise and moths during her visit, including the 36 studies that are to be sold by Christie's in London on May 16. Estimates are from £1,500 and £8,000 a study.



Ellis Rowan, the artist

Homeless TB rate highest in decades

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

THE highest tuberculosis rates for 30 years have been detected in a survey of homeless people in London. Though small in absolute terms — 12 confirmed cases among 600 hostel and day-centre users last summer — the rate is 200 times greater than that in the general population.

"TB follows poverty like a shadow," Dr Ken Citron, consultant physician at the Royal Brompton Hospital and one of the report's authors, said yesterday. "This is a Third World rate of infection and if nothing is done it will get worse."

The survey, *Out of the Shadow*, published by the charity Crisis, found that older men were the most likely to be infected, probably because they had been harbouring an infection re-activated as a result of age, poor diet and bad health, exacerbated by alcohol and living rough.

X-rays were taken at hostels and day centres in Camden and Westminster in August and September. The TB rate was equivalent to 2,000 per hundred thousand, rather higher than was found among the homeless in Edinburgh and Glasgow in the 1980s.

All the cases detected were treatable, Dr Citron said. The problem was ensuring that TB patients complied with the six-month programme of drugs. "Bad treatment is worse than no treatment at all," he said. "It prolongs infectiousness and can cause drug resistance."

The report recommends "directly observed therapy", where a worker ensures that each patient takes the drugs for the right period.

Stranger snatches girl at zoo

A stranger snatched a two-year-old girl from a London Zoo play area, it was disclosed yesterday. Heran with her for 300 yards but released her when the girl's parents raised the alarm. She was about 3pm on Sunday. The man was black, aged 25-30, about 5ft 11in, had long hair and wore a tan jacket and olive trousers.

Computer case

In what is believed to be the first such case, Christopher Pile, 26, of Plymouth was sent by magistrates for Crown Court trial charged with writing computer viruses.

Gas-mask alert

Stevens council in Hertfordshire has told people not to wear wartime gas masks at VE-Day celebrations as many have asbestos filters. Handling them is probably safe.

Murder remand

David Workman, 16, of Gloucester, who is blind, was remanded in custody for a week by the city's magistrates, charged with murdering Najinder Singh Bhat, 48.

Unhappy landing

Visitors to Colchester Zoo, Essex, saw a cheetah eat a peacock that flew into its enclosure. The cat has previously eaten wild geese and ducks that landed in his cage.

T-shirt loser

Steve Lawrence, 32, a graphic designer from Bishop's Cleeve, Shropshire, had to burn 500 joke T-shirts after a copyright warning from National Lottery organisers.

Warbler numbers falling in South

By Nick Nuttall, Environment Correspondent

NUMBERS of willow warblers have dropped sharply in the South of England. Ornithologists fear that thousands of the songbirds may be dying, or being killed in West Africa, where those seen in Britain are thought to winter.

Studies by the British Trust for Ornithology show that between 1986 and 1993 north-

ers of willow warblers fell by nearly half south of the Mersey and the Humber. A small fall, 7 per cent, has also been registered in northern England and Scotland.

"It is possible that willow warblers from northern and southern Britain winter in different regions of Africa and have therefore experienced different conditions in different years," the trust says in its magazine *BTO News*. Similar differences in winter habitat have also affected Britain's swallow population.

The warbler has been one of Britain's most stable with the population in 1993 hardly different to that of the 1960s. Monitoring of 6,000 nest sites shows that there have only been minor changes in the birds' breeding success in recent years.

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Deserters harming Tory election effort, says Labour

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TORY efforts to avoid devastating losses in next month's local elections have been undermined by desertions from the party throughout the country, Labour said yesterday.

Dozens of long-standing councillors have decided against fighting under the party's banner, prompting Labour claims that they are ashamed to seek election as Tories. Many former Tory candidates will have no political affiliation listed on the ballot papers.

One candidate, the deputy leader of a Norfolk council, was quoted by Labour as saying: "If I put '510's, fat and ugly' after my name it would win me more votes than 'Conservative'."

Labour cited cases of Tories rejecting the party in Hereford and Worcester, Somerset, Gloucestershire, Bedfordshire, Lancashire, Shropshire and Suffolk. It also published a list of former Tory candidates who have switched their allegiance to Labour.

Frank Dobson, the Shadow

Environment Secretary, told a news conference at Westminster: "Even before a single voter has put a cross on a ballot paper, the Conservative Government has been condemned as a bunch of losers — by Conservative councillors and candidates."

"They have voted with their feet and abandoned the Tory cause. The result is the weakest field of Tory candidates in local elections in 20 years. After a decade and a half of relentless assault on local councils, the Cabinet now faces the prospect of humiliation in May."

Jeremy Hanley, the Tory party chairman, conceded that the party would have fewer candidates on May 4 than in similar elections in 1991 but said there was nothing dishonourable about Conservatives reverting to their historic practice of standing as independents.

John Major fought back in the Commons by pointing to areas of Labour under-representation. Labour was putting

up a poor fight "in Berwick where they're fielding four candidates out of 28, in Craven, three out of 25, in Forest Heath, 17 out of 25 or a large number of other illustrations I might give. Perhaps they have their concerns about Labour policy."

Mr Hanley denied that Tory party activists had abandoned the Government to a humiliating fate next month. "In any mid-term between two general elections, the party of the day tends to field fewer candidates because it is taking difficult decisions which are needed to help the nation recover from many of the problems the Government of the day has faced, and Oppositions don't," he said.

Tony Blair, the Labour leader, will open his party's election campaign today, buoyed by the knowledge that a record number of Labour candidates will contest seats in England and Wales. In contrast, the number of Tory candidates has fallen by 800 since 1991.

Of the 12,000 council seats



being fought in England and Wales, Labour is contesting 9,445, the Tories 7,675 and the Liberal Democrats 7,249. At the last similar election, in 1991, the figures were Labour (8,602), Tories (8,641) and the Liberal Democrats (5,940).

Labour's campaign is bolstered by the high number of candidates fighting for elec-

tion in the southern Tory heartlands, where the party needs to make big gains to win power at the next general election. Even in districts where Labour has no councillors, including Poole and South Norfolk, the party is fielding the maximum number of candidates.

Mr Dobson said: "More

people are getting the chance to vote Labour than ever before in local elections. Our party, renewed and confident, is taking its message to parts of the country too long assumed to be hopeless for our cause."

Although the Tories concede that they will lose many council seats, they are keen to

see the local election gains made by the Liberal Democrats last year reversed. The Tories and the Liberal Democrats each polled about 28 per cent of the vote then. A senior Conservative said: "Whether they lose votes to Labour or we gain support, we want to put them firmly in third place."

Scots TUC supports minimum wage call

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

THE Scottish Trades Union Congress backed a call yesterday for an interventionist economic policy, including renationalisation, a national minimum wage, and a commitment to full employment.

Although there was no formal debate on Clause Four of Labour's constitution, the resolution called for "major public services and utilities to be returned to public ownership and democratic control". The package included a demand for a statutory minimum wage of half male median earnings.

Bill Morris, leader of the Transport and General Workers' Union, told the congress in Perth that a £4-an-hour minimum would "transform the lives of the working poor."

John Edmonds, general secretary of the GMB general union, said that creating a million extra jobs would cost £6 billion — the same amount that the former chancellor Nigel Lawson had "pumped back" to the highest-paid. "All we need to make the change is a decent helping of political courage," he said.

Militant teachers help Blair pass preliminary test

The Easter recess turned out to be more testing for Tony Blair than for John Major.

Leading from the front may be popular with voters but it can result in complaints from behind. The rejection of the proposed new Clause Four by the two largest unions, the transport workers and the Unison public service union, and renewed arguments over Labour's education plans have highlighted the unease of many activists about Mr Blair's attempt to reinvent the party as New Labour.

The education row is more important in the long term. Mr Blair should still win the Clause Four vote by a clear margin, even if not perhaps by two to one as some of his allies had been predicting. The opposition of these unions underlines the significance of the change — and makes it look much more than just a formality. Moreover, the Blair camp can point to the strength of support for the change wherever ballots are held among union or party members.

A litmus test of how far New Labour is more than a slogan is the party's attitude to the public services, and, in particular, to the National Union of Teachers. Many Labour members, councillors and a few MPs have been activists in the NUT, and to a lesser extent, the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers. The influence of these unions, and their competition, aggravated the tensions within schools and with central Government since the early 1980s. The decision of Mr Blair and his wife to send one of their children to a grammar-maintained school has already provoked strong criticism from rank-and-file activists, especially teachers.

At times, the Labour leadership has appeared to be the voice of these unions, implicitly, if not explicitly, backing disruptive action by teachers. The first sign of distancing occurred before the 1983 election when Neil Kinnock, as education spokesman, refused to promise to restore the cuts in education plans made by the Tories. Giles Radice, the Shadow Education Secretary in the 1983-87 period, was caught in the crossfire be-

tween the teachers and the Thatcher Government as he sought to shift Labour policy

major towards parents and pupils. Jack Straw, his successor in the 1987-92 Parliament, deliberately distanced the party from the NUT by, for example, backing the idea of the national curriculum, though not its details, despite the objections of the unions. His stress on improving standards and parents' rights made him unpopular with some union activists. After the 1992 election, Ann Taylor was much closer to the NUT and the other teaching unions.

Since last autumn, David Blunkett has taken a more independent line, accepting the need for more inspections and appraisal of teachers, including the closure of failing schools and their replacement by a new governing body, head and staff. This proposal, which would hardly cause controversy in any other sector, is part of a broader package challenging the pre-1980s Labour orthodoxy, not just in the running of schools but also the application of the comprehensive principle. Mr Blunkett's new approach is classic Blairism: a belief in education as a central public service, coupled with a stress on consumer-parent rights rather than producer-teacher interests.

The hounding of the blind Mr Blunkett at the NUT conference by a small number of Trotskyite militants has made it easier in the short term for Mr Blair to differentiate the Labour leadership from the union and its threat of strike action while criticising the sharp squeeze on school budgets. Only a few hard-left MPs looked unhappy when these points were made at Prime Minister's questions by Mr Blair and Peter Mandelson. But condemning union militancy and riding on the back of public dissatisfaction with the Government is only a preliminary answer. Mr Blair still has to explain how much he would raise spending and what this would mean for taxes.

PETER RIDDELL

MPs await verdict

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY

THE two Tory MPs at the centre of the Commons cash-for-questions inquiry will have their punishment decided by their colleagues tomorrow.

David Tredinnick (Bosworth) faces suspension for 20 working days and Graham Riddick (Colne Valley) for 10 days, each with loss of pay, after the Commons Privileges

Committee recommended tough sanctions for breaching Commons rules. The two MPs were found to have been willing to accept £1,000 for tabling questions.

MPs will decide after a two-hour Commons debate whether to impose the punishments or press for tougher or more lenient sanctions.

IN PARLIAMENT

YESTERDAY in the Commons: questions to health ministers and the Home Secretary were followed by a short statement on the fishing industry by William Waldegrave, the Agriculture Minister. MPs then debated the Environment Bill.

TCIDAY in the Commons: From 10am, the Commons debated the Home Secretary's statement on the fishing industry by William Waldegrave, the Agriculture Minister. MPs then debated the Environment Bill.

In the Lords: debates on the Energy Conservation Bill and the Activity Centres (Young Persons) Bill.



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Kozyrev threatens force to protect ethnic Russians

FROM MICHAEL BINYON IN MOSCOW

ANDREI KOZYREV, the Russian Foreign Minister, expressed Moscow's growing concern at the plight of ethnic Russians in former Soviet republics yesterday and issued a warning that he could not rule out the use of force to protect their rights.

"There may be cases when the use of direct military force will be needed to defend our compatriots abroad," he told a conference in Moscow, according to the Interfax news agency. He spoke of the "unsatisfactory status" of Russians in many nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States, where about 22 million Russians are living. According to official figures, 254,500 Russian-speakers moved to Russia last year, mostly from the Central Asian states of Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Kirghizia.

Mr Kozyrev said a paradoxical situation had emerged. "On the one hand there are plenty of declarations by leaders of CIS states in favour of the rights of national minorities and a great number of signed documents. At the same time, there are acute problems in the practical observance of these rights."

He said Moscow had various means at its disposal to protect Russians in the "near abroad", including diplomatic, economic and political pressure. He expressed frustration, however, that some CIS members had refused to sign a CIS human rights declaration, insisting that this would limit their sovereignty. Russia would press hard for such a

declaration and the proper handling of humanitarian issues.

His veiled threat appears to be a response to various factors that have recently provoked nationalist sentiment in Russia. The main worry is the continuing dispute with Kiev over the status of the majority ethnic Russians in Crimea. President Yeltsin said at the weekend that he would not sign a much-delayed treaty of friendship with Ukraine until the dispute was resolved.

Kiev recently abolished the powers of the Crimean regional parliament and criticised Sergei Tashkov, the assembly's Speaker, for addressing the Russian Duma and calling for help against Ukrainian pressure. Mr Kozyrev has tried to play down the disagreement, and discussed bilateral relations with his Ukrainian counterpart at a weekend meeting of the Black Sea regional co-operation council in Athens.



Kozyrev wants CIS deal on human rights

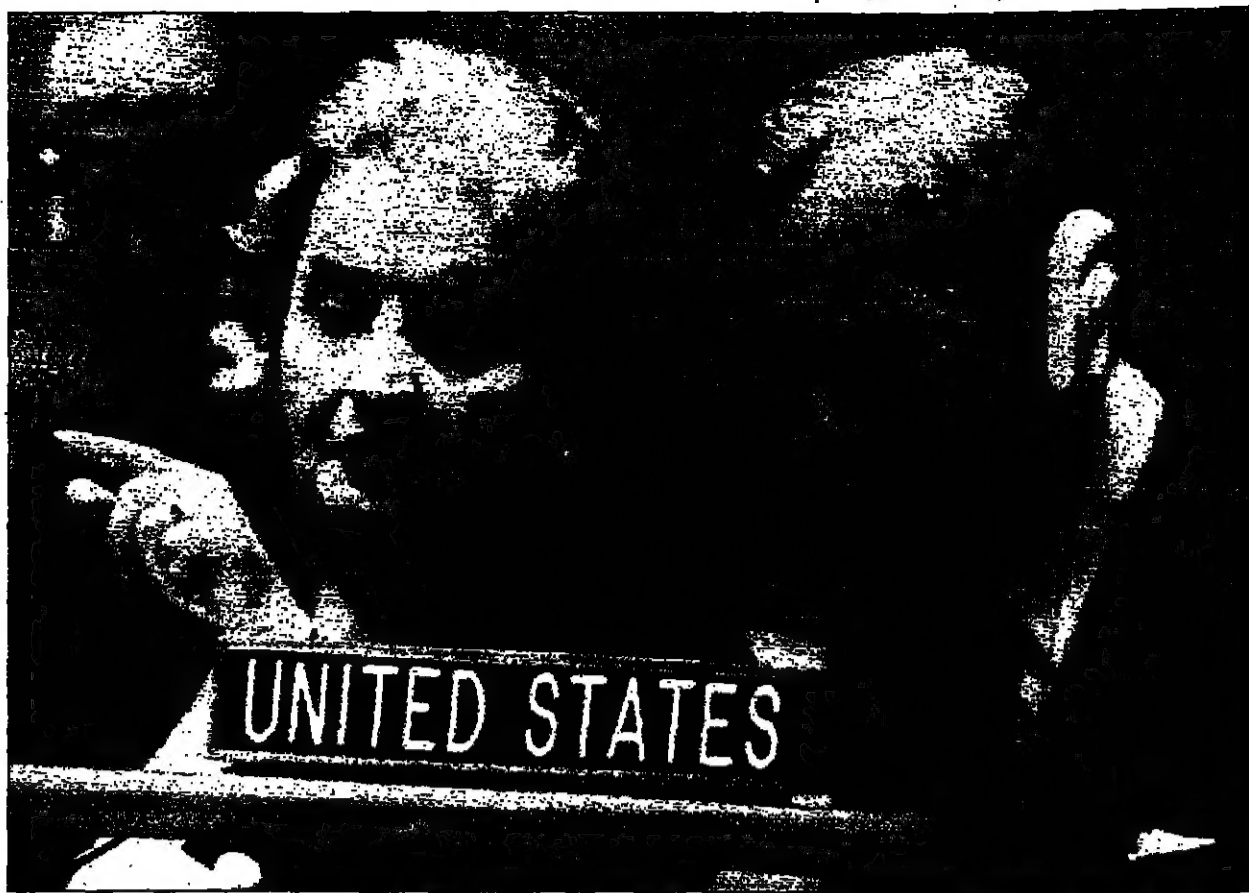
Russia is also frustrated by what it sees as the championing in the West of the rights of all ethnic groups in the former Soviet Union, except Russians. Recent American warnings to Moscow not to block the expansion of Nato or claim regional hegemony have touched raw nerves, and Russians resent the opprobrium attached to anyone who champions their cause.

Another worry in Moscow is the campaign against the use of Russian in former Soviet republics. The Baltic states took a particularly tough line, linking citizenship to fluency in their national languages, and this soured relations with Moscow for several years. The situation appears to have improved, following Baltic guarantees on minority rights given to the Council of Europe. A recent poll showed almost three-quarters of ethnic Russians in the Baltics do not want to emigrate to Russia.

In Belorussia, where Russian is more widely spoken than the scarcely developed national language, a referendum is to be held on the status of Russian. The Central Asian states and the three Transcaucasus nations have stepped up administrative pressure against the use of Russian.

Russian forces are bogged down in Chechnya and are being sucked into clashes in Tajikistan. As a result, they are in no position now to put pressure on other Governments over the treatment of ethnic Russians.

Leading article, page 17



Madeleine Albright, US envoy to the UN, talks to a weary Warren Christopher, the Secretary of State, at the conference.

Hurd backs nuclear pact extension

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

BRITAIN offered a package of incentives to non-nuclear countries yesterday to support an indefinite extension of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). The offer included an end to British production of fissile material for nuclear bombs and the promise of eventual British participation in global disarmament talks.

Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, said in a speech prepared for delivery to a 178-nation conference that the NPT was a "treaty for all seasons" and should be extended indefinitely when it expires this year. The treaty, which came into force 25

years ago, requires all but the five declared nuclear power states — Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States — to renounce nuclear weapons. In return, the nuclear power states commit themselves to eventual disarmament.

A vote by a simple majority of signatory states in mid-May will decide whether the treaty is extended indefinitely, or continued for a limited period of five, ten or 25 years.

Mr Hurd attempted to convince sceptical Third World countries that the nuclear powers were living up to their promise to reduce and eventually eliminate their arsenals.

He said Britain had withdrawn its tactical nuclear weapons on ships and was phasing out "free-fall" nuclear bombs carried by aircraft.

He also underlined that Britain, which has resisted putting its Trident nuclear deterrent on the table in global arms talks, would be willing to join multilateral nuclear disarmament once the two nuclear giants had cut their present arsenals, and they could be counted in hundreds, rather than thousands.

Britain, he added, already supported the "early conclusion" of a comprehensive test ban treaty, with no exception for so-called "safety tests",

and wanted an "early start" to talks on a global ban on the production of fissile material. "I can announce today that the United Kingdom has ceased the production of fissile material for explosive purposes."

Dr Stephen Pollinger, the executive director of the International Security Information Service in London, said Mr Hurd's speech effectively ruled out British participation in the next round of US-Russian talks on strategic arms reductions — START II. The announcement about fissile material meant there was probably enough for Trident.

Moscow general in warning to Nato

BY CAREY SCHOFIELD

LIEUTENANT-General Aleksandr Lebed, the commander of the Russian 14th Army in Moldova, who is widely tipped as a candidate in next year's Russian presidential elections, has given Nato a stark warning not to expand eastwards.

Russia "will no longer turn a blind eye to British and French nuclear weapons if Nato proceeds with its expansion plans", he said in an interview in Moscow.

He said the Russian parliament might not only refuse to ratify Start 2 (the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty) in its present form but might demand renegotiation to include European nuclear weapons, unless it could be reassured that the drive to expand Nato had ceased.

"If Nato expands, Russia will be justified in adopting the doctrine of graduated deterrence," he said. Such a strategy would involve resorting to a limited nuclear response if conventional defence failed. "This would represent a departure from the current Russian policy of 'no first use'."

"An enlarged Nato would clearly be more powerful than Russia," General Lebed said. "Our thinking would have to reflect that. Expansion would clearly necessitate greater investment in the military."

He conceded that Nato posed no threat to Russia's security in the immediate future but added: "Who can say what developments may take place in Europe over the next 20 years?"

Although he has gone further, in outlining the possible repercussions of Nato enlargement, than any other senior Russian general, his anger is not out of step with mainstream general staff thinking. Many of the top military in Moscow are seething with fury over their Government's indecisive reaction to Nato expansion plans.

Morale within the Russian army has plummeted over the past few years, as officers have watched the prestige of the military collapse.

Carey Schofield is the author of "The Russian Elite" (Greenhill, £16.95).

Veterans applaud as Chernomyrdin praises Stalin for defeat of Nazis

BY MICHAEL BINYON

STALIN's wartime leadership drew warm praise yesterday from Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Russian Prime Minister, who underlined the dictator's role in leading the Soviet Union to victory.

Speaking at a conference on the "Lessons of War", attended by veterans and historians, Mr Chernomyrdin said: "We must not

stay silent about the importance of the deeds in the Great Patriotic War of Josef Vissarionovich Stalin. It would not be fair or just." His remarks were applauded by the veterans.

The Prime Minister's praise came as Russia indulges in growing nostalgia for its wartime spirit and endurance in the run-up to the celebrations to mark the 50th anniversary of VE-Day. Mr Chernomyrdin admitted that Stalin had grossly miscalculated the military and political factors at the time of the German invasion, and had been largely responsible for the early defeats by "liquidating" senior officers.

With only three weeks to go before the VE-Day celebrations, President Yeltsin and Mr Chernomyrdin yesterday discussed the preparations for the emotionally charged ceremonies and the biggest gathering in Moscow of foreign leaders since the funeral of President Brezhnev in 1982.

Mr Yeltsin's talks came a day after he signed a draft law granting an amnesty to 300,000 prisoners who will be freed to commemorate the victory over Nazi Germany. The draft law, to be sent to the Duma for discussion this week, would apply to all remaining war criminals in

prison, except those who had committed murder and other serious crimes.

Russia is in the throes of frantic preparations to ensure that the VE-Day ceremonies go ahead smoothly. The present unstable political situation has raised fears of demonstrations, and Mr Yeltsin gave a warning that such rallies should not spoil Russia's "sacred day". The main fear is that the continuing

fighting in Chechnya may be the pretext for protests by opposition groups or even foreign guests.

Thousands of veterans will march in parades through Moscow and receive medals. The Government, however, has been able to pay only very modest travel and accommodation costs to those invited, and thousands of embittered pensioners who fought in the war are complaining they cannot afford to take part.

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10.00	379.17	587.50	795.83
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*Note: All payments quoted above are monthly interest only payments not of MPRAS (tax relief of 10% with effect from 6 April 1995, on the first £20,000 of the loan).

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Communists' cuddly gnome boots out class warfare to angle for votes

FROM CHARLES BRENNER
IN PARIS

ASK French children to sketch a presidential candidate and they are likely to come up with a likeness of Robert Hue. Chubby, bald, bespectacled, his face fringed by a beard, the leader of the French Communist Party has the most eccentric features of any contender.

The gnome-like Hue might seem better suited to a helper for Snow White or Santa Claus than to a television-age politician. Combined with a jovial personality, however, they have helped M. Hue

put up a brilliant performance in the campaign for the presidential elections. A week before France votes in the first round, about 9 per cent of the electorate favours M. Hue, 48, a former nurse who seems to have tapped the king of the old Kropotkin's favourite party in the West.

In 1988, André Lajoinie, the last candidate, achieved 6.5 per cent, and the collapse of the Berlin Wall was deemed to have been the death knell for a party that once commanded 25 per cent of the French vote. Buoyed up by the prospect of a relative triumph, M. Hue yesterday urged supporters not to be

swayed by calls from Lionel Jospin, the Socialist candidate, asking the electorate to back him to ensure that a leftwinger wins through to the run-off on May 7. "The Communist Party has a calling to take part in all levels of government in this country," he said, with an eye on the nationwide council elections in June. Communists still govern dozens of towns and villages.

Thanks to what the Soviet hierarchy might have called a "cult of personality", M. Hue has projected himself as the friendly face of a caring new communism at a time when France is anguished by unemployment and social unrest. Gone is the dinosaur image of Georges Marchais, the hardline leader of two decades who anointed M. Hue in 1993.

"Bob" Hue can beat all rivals in the trivia of rock 'n' roll and can claim a performing past of his own. He was once "Bob Belton", lead guitarist with a pseudo-American band called Les Rapaces (The Birds of Prey). Unlike his reformed comrades from other European parties, M. Hue proudly claims the Communist name, reminding his rallies that the word was a French invention. "Communism has a future," he said yesterday. "It has nothing to do with the caricature which failed and which we have permanently rejected."

France threatens Bosnia pullout after troop deaths

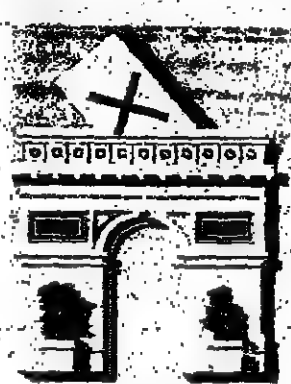
BY CHARLES BRENNER IN PARIS AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE French Foreign Minister, Alain Juppé, said in New York yesterday there was a strong reason to believe that one of the two French peacekeepers shot dead in Sarajevo last weekend was killed by Bosnian government troops.

The two deaths have made the French mission a controversial issue in the presidential election campaign and prompted Paris to threaten once again to withdraw its 4,500 troops from Bosnia-Herzegovina.

M. Juppé said that French soldiers were being transformed into "hostages" and added: "We cannot let that situation go on getting worse." Joe Sills, the chief UN spokesman, said that the evidence of who had killed the peacekeeper was "inconclusive".

Edouard Balladur, the Prime Minister, asked M. Juppé, who is New York for talks on the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, to revive talks on Bosnia among the five nations belonging to the Contact Group. The flurry of diplomatic activity coincides with the run-up to Sunday's presidential voting, and M. Balladur, the underdog of two Gaullist candidates, is eager to demonstrate his resolve. His Government leaves office within a month. Officials said



FRENCH ELECTION

however, that any unilateral action by France was unlikely. "The shooting of the French soldiers prompted Yasushi Akashi, the UN envoy to the former Yugoslavia, to say that countries contributing troops may have to reconsider their role. 'If such incidents continue, I think contributing countries will have to review whether they should continue their participation in UN-ordered [the UN Protection Force],'" Mr Akashi said during a visit to Split, Croatia, where he met Lieutenant-General Rupert Smith, the UN commander in Bosnia.

Although the soldiers

deaths have stirred indignation, they did not spark much political debate. Initially, France's leading role in the UN effort, assigned by President Mitterrand in 1992, is generally welcomed as a symbol of the country's stature as a world power.

However, a statement issued by Paris yesterday said: "The deterioration of conditions in which UN forces fulfil their mission seriously jeopardises the peacekeepers' safety, as the cowardly murder of two French soldiers showed, and risks calling this mission into question." The killings brought to 31 the French death toll in former Yugoslavia over the past three years.

M. Juppé, who is expected to become Prime Minister if Jacques Chirac wins the presidency, will emphasise the urgency of extending the much-battered ceasefire, due to expire on April 30, and of relaunching the Contact Group's peace talks. The Foreign Minister has been a leading force in the Bosnian peace effort.

M. Chirac, the front-runner presidential candidate, is calling for tough pressure on "the belligerents" to observe the ceasefire and to advocate the threat of airstrikes and "an ultimatum". Ismael Jospin, the Socialist candidate, says he wants greater firmness in dealing with the Serbs. Philippe de Villiers, the nationalist conservative candidate, called for the UN contingent to be allowed to meet force with force.

Jean-Marie Le Pen, the extreme rightwinger, said: "It is time to bring home our contingent because it is truly a criminal aberration to throw men into such a confused fight without giving them clearly defined objectives."

Harris Silajdzic, the Bosnian Prime Minister, said yesterday: "A French withdrawal would be most unfortunate because it would be rewarding the killers."



Jacques Chirac, the presidential candidate, meets Mary Pierce, the French tennis player, at a party yesterday

Serb flight ban on envoy angers US

BY EVE-ANN PRENTICE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

A SERB refusal to allow Victor Jackovich, the US Ambassador to Bosnia, to fly out of Sarajevo has prompted a furious response in America. Warren Christopher, the Secretary of State, said that the refusal, which forced Mr Jackovich to take a perilous land route out of Bosnia on Monday, was "unjustified and outrageous". He was also angry with the United Nations for giving in to the Serbs. A Serb liaison officer at Sarajevo

airport objected when Mr Jackovich arrived on Monday to take a UN flight out of the city at the end of his assignment there. UN officials at the airport told the envoy there was nothing they could do and gave him an armoured car to leave by road.

"I'm going to have something to say to the UN officials about their decision," Mr Christopher said. "That's a very dangerous place for Americans to serve... but I

don't see any basis for adding to the risks and dangers."

His criticism came as the UN was facing another bout of anxiety about how peacekeepers can be safeguarded, and how long they should stay.

Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, was to discuss the Balkans with Mr Christopher last night on the fringes of the UN talks aimed at extending the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Alain Juppé and Klaus Kinkel, the Foreign Ministers

of France and Germany, were also expected to join the talks, which were due to focus on the future of the five-nation Contact Group. Experts from the group will meet in Vienna tomorrow, along with representatives of the Bosnian Government, the Foreign Office said. They will meet a delegation led by Ejup Ganic, the Bosnian Vice-President.

In Sarajevo, Bosnian Serb forces shelled a suburb and a supply route.

Paris asks UN to back extension of truce

New York: France sought support yesterday for a United Nations resolution calling for an extension of the ceasefire in Bosnia-Herzegovina, a resumption of peace talks, and unspecified UN measures "to protect UN peacekeepers" (Reuters, Rome, wired).

Jean-Benoît Mégnien, the French Ambassador to the UN, presented the proposal to members of the Security Council before they had gone to

was seeking an emergency council meeting to consider the killing of two French peacekeepers in Sarajevo last weekend.

M. Mégnien said the resolution would urge the warring sides to renew the four-month ceasefire, which expires at the end of the month, and to resume peace talks. The resolution would also require Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN Secretary-General, to prepare a report on increasing protection for UN troops.

Brando planned to bring daughter home



Brando: agent denied heart attack reports

Papeete: Marlon Brando had been planning to fly to Tahiti next week to take his depressed daughter, Cheyenne, 25, who committed suicide on Sunday, back to America for treatment, a family source said yesterday.

She had been living in Papeete, near the Tahitian capital of Papeete, with her brother, Tahiti, who had been taking care of her full-time. She hanged herself at her mother's home in Papeete.

Family associates said she had been distraught since the killing of her boyfriend, Dag Drollet, in 1990 by her half-brother, Christian Brando. Doctors said she had tried to

kill herself twice previously. Her body was moved to an aunt's home in the town of Papeete. Only very close family members were able to view the body and pay their respects.

Her half-brother, Mike Brando, arrived in Papeete yesterday. Marlon Brando was not on the flight.

Ed Limato, one of the actor's agents, denied reports that he had been taken to hospital after hearing of his daughter's suicide. Mr Limato said the reports "are not true" and added that his client would not be making a statement about the tragedy. (AP/AF)

Hollywood children, page 15



Cheyenne: died after third suicide attempt

British trade with Cuba is blood money, says Helms

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN MIAMI

LIKENING himself to Winston Churchill fighting appeasement with Hitler, Jesse Helms, the ultra-conservative senator, has accused Britain and other nations that trade with Cuba of "dealing in blood money".

"Surely the world is in a position to understand the folly of dealing with a tyrant, whether he be Hitler or Fidel Castro," Mr Helms told an audience of 1,000 cheering Cuban American exiles in Miami on the thirty-fourth anniversary of the bungled

Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba. Mr Helms, who became Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee after the Republican landslide in last November's mid-term elections, said Mr Castro's "days are numbered" thanks to a Bill he has introduced in Congress to tighten the economic noose on Cuba's struggling economy.

Mr Helms said Cuba was threatening to respond to his Bill with a repetition of last summer's exodus of 30,000 boat people. "That is a mili-

tary threat," he said, which deserved to be met with a naval blockade of the island.

Since the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Bill was introduced in February, it has received backing from a broad bipartisan coalition in Congress. The Clinton Administration has promised to fight it, however, and the European Union, Canada and several Latin American countries, have threatened to retaliate against American efforts to isolate the island, especially if the Bill is passed.

Weeping Madonna released

Civitavecchia: Judicial authorities yesterday lifted a "custody order" on a statue of the Madonna whose reported tears of blood have caused thousands of Italy's faithful to flock to this port city.

Antonio Albano, a magistrate, lifted an injunction ordering Mgr. Girolamo Grillo, the local bishop, to keep the statue locked in a cupboard in his home pending the results of an investigation. He had said earlier that allowing the statue to remain the subject of veneration before the inquiry was complete risked violating laws against "abuse of public sensitivities". (Reuters)

Madrid charges 14 for 'dirty war'

Madrid: A Spanish high court judge formally charged 14 former political and security officials yesterday for their involvement with the Anti-Terrorist Liberation Group (GAL) which conducted a "dirty war" against Basque separatists in the 1980s. The most senior of those charged was Rafael Vera, who was Secretary of State for Security until 1993 and has been detained since February. He was charged with misuse of public funds and four other financial crimes. (Reuters)

Nuclear cargo nears Japan

Tokyo: A British ship, Pacific Pioneer, carrying 14 tonnes of high-level nuclear waste, will arrive at the northern Japanese port of Mutsu-Ogawara next Tuesday, ending its two-month voyage from France, which was opposed by 30 countries. The waste, a by-product of Japan's spent nuclear fuel reprocessed at a French plant, will be stored at a cooling facility in Rokkasho, on the Pacific coast. (Reuters)

Killer wins stay of execution

Angola, Louisiana: The state Supreme Court voted 4-3 to grant Antonio James his fourteenth stay of execution on Monday, four hours before he was due to die by lethal injection. James, 39, was sentenced to death for shooting Henry Silver, 70, in an armed robbery in 1979. He was later sentenced to 99 years for killing Alvin Adams, 74, in another robbery. (Reuters)

Pilot killed in Tehran crash

Tehran: An Iranian Air Force plane crashed into flats and a school yesterday during low-altitude exercises over the capital for Army Day, killing the pilot and injuring at least four people. The official Iranian news agency said that the pilot died when his Swiss-made TC6 training plane plummeted from the sky. (AFP)

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Clinton goes on media offensive against Gingrich

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT CLINTON attempted last night to wrest attention from his Republican opponents and promote his own campaign to regain the White House in 1996.

After months of isolation, in which Mr Clinton has been eclipsed by Newt Gingrich, the House Speaker, and his colleagues, the President took advantage of the Easter congressional recess to hold a rare prime-time news conference, only his fourth such forum since taking office nearly 27 months ago.

It followed a series of steps taken by the White House during the last week to thrust Mr Clinton back into the spotlight in the absence of the Republicans whose revolution has dominated US politics since November.

The news conference, which White House aides admitted was a rare chance for Mr

Clinton to re-engage the public, was expected to focus on the President's successes, deemed by Republicans as rather limited, over the past two years and his priorities on issues facing Congress.

It was not clear how much attention the event would attract, however. While CNN said it would carry the conference live, the other three big television networks were still debating yesterday whether they should attend. Phil Gramm, the Republican senator and presidential candidate, meanwhile, was due to make a critique of the address via satellite from Iowa.

The Clinton conference reflects a more aggressive approach by White House spin doctors, who last week allowed the President to give an hour-long interview to CNN to promote his agenda. He also attempted to under-

mine the Republican revolution and emphasise his successes, no simple task after the failure of previous two pillars of his Administration, health-care and welfare reform.

The regular radio address at the weekend, in which the President defined the three latest Democrat priorities as tax cuts, welfare reform and anti-crime measures, represented his most forceful attempt to win back control of the political high ground.

Since his party's catastrophic poll defeat last November, Mr Clinton has been turning increasingly for political counsel to Dick Morris, the consultant from Connecticut who was the architect behind his return to the Arkansas Governor's office in 1992 as the "Comeback Kid". Since working with Mr Clinton in Little Rock, Mr Morris has placed himself firmly behind the Right and is working for Trent Lott, the second-ranking Republican in the Senate and staunch ally of Newt Gingrich. The President, nevertheless, is thought to favour Mr Morris as chief campaign strategist for 1996.

An informal group has been created by Mr Morris which includes Al Gore, the Vice-President, Bob Squier, Mr Gore's media adviser, and members of the New York polling firm, Penn & Schoen. Close Clinton aides such as Leon Panetta, the chief of staff, and Harold Ickes, his deputy, apparently are unaware of the latest clique. They were shocked when the President altered a recent speech, with the help of Mr Morris.

The President and the Republican consultant are likely to create greater divisions at a time when the Democrats are desperately looking to the President for a lead on what to do in 1996. Most senior posts in the election team remain open and there is no clear strategy for what will be an uphill battle.



Brian Tobin, the Canadian Fisheries Minister, meets an officer on a fisheries patrol vessel off Newfoundland

Spanish boats 'hide behind Belize flag'

BY EVAN PRENTICE
DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

CANADA yesterday accused Spanish-owned trawlers of hiding behind a Belize flag of convenience to fish illegally on the Grand Banks off Newfoundland, the area at the heart of the "fishing war".

The registration of vessels in Belize, formerly British Honduras, would be a bizarre twist, given that the Spanish Foreign Ministry called in the

British Ambassador to Madrid on Monday to complain about London's support for Canada in the dispute. Hundreds of British troops train in Belize, which became independent in 1981.

Brian Tobin, the Canadian Fisheries Minister, threatened to take action against two vessels, which he said were registered in Belize but owned and crewed by Spaniards and were fishing illegally for Greenland halibut on the

Grand Banks. Belize is not a party to the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organisation and as such has no quota for Greenland halibut.

The weekend agreement between Canada and the European Union, providing for far-reaching inspection and conservation measures, was only reluctantly ratified by the EU on Monday after nearly six weeks of confrontation.

Mr Tobin, who is from Newfoundland, said he under-

stood the anxiety of Spanish fishermen who face high unemployment, but said the deal "will take a genuine partnership. We're not declaring a victory here, and if there is a winner in this conflict then it's the fish."

José María Aznar, leader of the conservative Popular Party, said in Madrid: "With a weak government you reap only defeat, and that is what we have reaped at the expense of Spanish interests."

Here's bidding for your Oscar, kid

FROM GILES WHITTELL
IN LOS ANGELES

TO THE dismay of the American Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, a treasured Oscar statuette is being sold to the highest bidder. The Oscar recognising *Casablanca* as the best film of 1942 is expected to fetch at least \$60,000 (£37,500) at an auction of movie memorabilia at Christies in New York next month. A white polyester suit worn by John Travolta in *Saturday*

Night Fever and the bench from which Tom Hanks distributes free chocolates in *Forrest Gump* will also go under the hammer.

The Academy, which treasures its elevated "non-profit" status as well as its long name, frequently begs past Oscar winners not to sell their trophies on the open market, even if they have fallen on hard times. The august body even claims a right, seldom exercised, to buy back for a paltry \$10 any Oscar offered for sale.

The famed *Casablanca* Oscar, presented to Hal Willis, the film's producer, will be sold anyway — and the Academy may have only itself to blame; it was a party to a resounding snub at the 1943 Oscar ceremony, recalled by Mr Willis decades later when writing his autobiography. When the victory was announced, Jack Warner, the Warner Brothers' chairman, beat Mr Willis to the podium and went home with the Oscar. The two men scarcely spoke again. The statuette being sold is a replica given to Mr Willis later that year.

Japan cult banned in Russia

MOSCOW: A Russian court has banned the Aum Shinrikyo religious cult in the wake of widespread concern in Russia over apparent links between the cult and the sarin attack on the Tokyo underground. (Michael Bunyon writes.)

The court also banned broadcasting in Russia by the sect. Bank assets and property belonging to the sect, which claims more than 30,000 members in Russia, were confiscated after the Tokyo attack, and President Yeltsin ordered a full investigation. Moscow has been alarmed recently by the spread of cults and sects.

Crash kills eight

ALEXANDRIA CITY: Clark Fisher, an Assistant Secretary of the Air Force, his military assistant and six others died on board a C-21 jet as it crashed and exploded near this Alabama town. (Reuters)

Space deal

ALMA ATA: President Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan has ratified an agreement to lease the Baikonur space launching centre to Russia for 20 years, ending a long dispute over the fate of the cosmodrome. (AP)

Transplant rule

JERUSALEM: Jews can donate their organs for transplant operations, but only to other Jews, Rabbi Yehoshua Scheinberger, an authority on health for the ultra-Orthodox community, has ruled. (AP)

Leaflet plea

TUNIS: Turkish army helicopters have showered besieged Kurdish rebels in Alibonani ravine with thousands of leaflets urging them to come out of their stronghold and surrender. (Reuters)

Day strippers

Nairobi: A Kenyan gang with bows and arrows and swords swam to a boat near an Indian Ocean beach north of Mombasa and robbed nine Italian tourists of everything except their underwear. (AFP)

Refugee
Rwanda
trigger

die in Libe

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مركز الاستثمار

Refugees killed as Rwandan troops trigger stampede

FROM JULIAN BEDFORD IN KIBeho, RWANDA

GOVERNMENT troops firing in the air around a camp in southwestern Rwanda yesterday triggered a stampede that killed eight residents, United Nations officials said. Shaharyar Khan, the UN special envoy to Rwanda, said that the victims were crushed to death when tens of thousands of refugees panicked and stampeded at Kibeho camp after the firing erupted.

"There was no violence directed towards the refugees. There was no search of the camp. The RPA [Rwandan Patriotic Army] said they did not intend any harm to the people in the camp but they wanted them to go home," Mr Khan said in Kigali, the capital.

UN officials said earlier that troops of the Hutu-dominated Rwandan army conducted an intense "rounding and search" operation of the camp, which houses about 120,000 refugees. But they later established that the soldiers only rounded off the camp and fired in the air, but failed to go in and search.

A correspondent, who flew over the camp by helicopter, estimated that 100,000 people with their meagre possessions were swarming up a central hill seeking sanctuary near a church. He said that four

other hills in Kibeho were deserted and one in every five huts was destroyed by fire or in pieces. Fleeing residents wrapped possessions in blue UN plastic sheeting taken from the roofs. Plumes of smoke rose from the camp while a patrol of Zambian UN soldiers "picked their way" through the debris.

Colonel Sam Kaka, the Rwandan army Chief of Staff, later flew to Kibeho and addressed the refugees. He assured them that they would be provided with food and shelter but none moved.

Mr Khan said that Colonel Kaka also asked the displaced whether they wanted to go home and a significant majority had raised their hands.

This is a very high pressure situation. We must see how we can get these people out of the camp in a humane way, the UN envoy added. Hundreds of thousands of the displaced in Rwanda and about two million refugees abroad are members of the Hutu majority, who fled during the genocide and civil war between April and July last year. The Hutus, fearing attack as revenge for the killing of up to one million Tutsis and Hutu moderates, say they cannot go home despite the Government demanding that they do. They include former

Hutu militiamen who, with Hutu government troops, were responsible for the mass slaughter across Rwanda.

A UN official said that yesterday's operation represented "strong-arm tactics by the RPA to force the refugees to go home" against their will. Earlier, Mr Khan said that UN representatives were given no advance warning of the army action and believed that the aim was not to close the camp but to cordon it off and search it.

Major Wilson Rutayisire, the government spokesman, said that many Hutu militiamen had been active in the camp. Two days ago they moved out and killed two people before returning.

The population of Kibeho has swollen in recent weeks as other refugee camps in the southwest have been closed down. The Government has been pushing for their closure since last year, arguing that the displaced should return to their homes and that the camps are hotbeds for Hutu militiamen.

Rwandan troops razed Kibuye camp in September. UN troops conducted a search in Kibeho camp in December, arresting more than 40 people and seizing 1,000 weapons, mainly machetes. (Reuters)

America weighs up demise of \$1 bill

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

IN THEIR drive to restore America's greatness, Washington's Republican revolutionaries are seeking to abolish the ultimate symbol of their country's global supremacy, the "greenback".

As part of their efforts to revive the enfeebled dollar by cutting federal spending, Newt Gingrich and his fellow House Republicans want to do away with the world-famous dollar bill and replace it with a coin.

The move would save the Treasury nearly \$400 million (£250 million) a year. But whether the public will swallow this assault on such a cherished national icon remains unclear. On Capitol Hill, where the House Budget Committee begins hearings on May 3, a battle royal is in prospect.

Unions representing bank-note producers have banded together with the ink and paper industries to form a "Save the Greenback" group and hire one of Washington's leading lobbying firms. They plan to exploit both the public's aversion to heavy pocketfuls of coins and its deep affection for the dollar bill.

America is a country that still refuses to go fully metric. Fighting to abolish the dollar bill is the "Coin Coalition", comprising vending machine companies, the amusement arcade industry, public transport authorities and copper mine owners. They argue that dollar coins would be cheaper and more convenient, noting that it is time to stop exploiting peasants.

ONE of China's supreme leaders, who called for fundamental democratic reforms last month, has issued a warning that it is time to stop exploiting peasants.

Tian Jiyun, 65, a member of the ruling Politburo Standing Committee and a leading agricultural expert, said in Shenzhen at the weekend: "We cannot keep sacrificing agriculture for industry and farmers for city-dwellers."

Once again, Mr Tian has shown himself to be a man of substance compared to President Jiang Zemin, recently confirmed as successor to



Iqbal Masih: sold by his parents and shackled to carpet loom for nearly six years

Exploited boy who spoke out shot dead

Islamabad: A 12-year-old boy who won international acclaim for highlighting the horrors of child labour in Pakistan has been shot dead. It is believed his death was linked to his crusade.

Iqbal Masih died on Sunday as he and two friends rode bicycles in their village of Murike, near the eastern city of Lahore, according to Ehsan Ullah Khan, chairman of the Bonded Labour Liberation Front, which opposes child labour.

"We know his death was a conspiracy by the carpet mafia," Mr Khan said yesterday, referring to carpet-weaving factory owners who employ large numbers of children. A labourer in Iqbal's village had been arrested in connection with the shooting, Mr Khan said. Iqbal had received several death threats.

At an international labour conference in Sweden in November, he spoke about conditions of child workers. In December, he received the Reebok Youth in Action Award, in Boston. He had been sold by his parents at the age of four and shackled to a carpet loom for nearly six years. When freed, he owed his boss 13,000 rupees. He earned one rupee a day. (AP)

Peking told not to exploit peasants

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

ONE of China's supreme leaders, who called for fundamental democratic reforms last month, has issued a warning that it is time to stop exploiting peasants.

Tian Jiyun, 65, a member of the ruling Politburo Standing Committee and a leading agricultural expert, said in Shenzhen at the weekend: "We cannot keep sacrificing agriculture for industry and farmers for city-dwellers."

Once again, Mr Tian has shown himself to be a man of substance compared to President Jiang Zemin, recently confirmed as successor to

Deng Xiaoping, the paramount leader, whose genius lies in political manoeuvre and who recently appointed the lacklustre Jiang Chunyun to oversee agriculture. Neither of Mr Tian's recent seminal speeches has, however, been featured in China's national press.

Grain production is falling steadily in China, despite forecasts from propagandists that there will always be plenty to feed the rapidly growing population, which now stands at 1.2 billion.

Mr Deng's reforms enriched farmers in the early

1980s by letting them till their own fields. Now, however, there are at least 100 million migrant farmers looking for work in cities. The annual per capita income for farmers last year was \$66, while it was \$261 for city residents.

In 1957 there was about a tenth of an acre of agricultural land per person. That has now fallen to a twelfth. Last year grain output fell by 2.5 per cent to 445.6 million tonnes. In 1993, China was a net exporter of 7.8 million tonnes; last year it imported about the same quantity, and became the third largest purchaser of

American grain. What Mr Tian did in Shenzhen was to attack the policies of Mr Jiang, the new Vice-Premier for Agriculture, who has demanded that China be self-sufficient in grain. "The problem of the insufficiency of grain can be solved through the two markets, the domestic and the overseas," Mr Tian said.

During the past year, prices of agricultural staples have risen by between 25 and 40 per cent, but little of this increase has gone to farmers, much of whose production is bought at low state prices.

62 die in Liberia massacre

Geneva: At least 62 people, mostly women and children, were hacked to death in Liberia last week in the latest of a series of reported massacres in the West African state, the UN Children's Fund said yesterday.

A UN spokesman said it was not known who was responsible for the massacre on April 9 in the small town of Yosi, near Buchanan. The area is controlled by the National Patriotic Front of

Liberia and claimed by a smaller militia group, the Liberian Peace Council.

Damien Personnaz, a UN spokesman, said that the attackers surrounded a group of about 200 people in Yosi. "They were encircled by fighters and they were told they would be killed with machetes and that's what happened," Mr Personnaz said. No UN personnel had been able to visit the town and the facts were pieced together

from the testimony of survivors treated in Buchanan, Liberia's second city.

He said ten survivors reached Buchanan last Wednesday and received treatment. They included a two-month-old baby with a cut head and a young pregnant woman, who was probably raped and later miscarried.

The incidents were being investigated by UNOMIL, the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia. (Reuters)

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Wear it on the beach, wear it at the bar: this summer's hot top is the essence of easy glamour



Halternecks from Marc Jacobs (left) and Hermès...



...and variations on the theme from (left to right) Donna Karan, Dolce & Gabbana, Prada and Blumarine.

Photographs by
Keith Henderson
Hair Rick Haytor for John
Frieda using John Frieda
hair products
Make up by Ruth Funnell
Stylist Philippe Esling
Model Guinevere

A simple way to look sexy: the halterneck

Even if you're not intending to trip off to St Tropez, or cover the waterfront in Cannes, you will be able to dress the part thanks to fashion's preoccupation with all-things glamorous. The hottest look this summer is the halterneck, which exposes a fresh erogenous zone — the shoulders and back.



Fashion
by
IAIN R.
WEBB

Blumarine had a version. Christian Lacroix offered a black, crocheted halternecked dress, and another in silver stretch velvet. Karl Lagerfeld cut a tiny halterneck bra top in stretch jersey, while Guenay and Ferragamo went for

something more sophisticated in pleated silk and georgette respectively.

This season the halterneck tops everything from a slick swimsuit to a full length evening dress. Knitted or satin barely-there tops and skimpy, stinky cocktail dresses are favourites. High street stores have caught halterneck fever. Warehouse have tops in shimmering lurex and matt jersey. Whistles offer shiny satin. Kookai have pretty printed florals, and Hennes stock a great cotton knit top.

The halter has its origins in the 1930s, when it was worn by bathing beauties. Swimming costumes and sun-suits featured drawstring tops which tied behind the neck or cleverly wrapped scarves circled the neck and were secured in the small of the back. Vacation fashions in the 1930s were set in St Tropez, where the designer Vachon sold printed Provencal handkerchiefs for sunbathers to tie over their bathing suits. This season Hermès offered a similar way to wear their signature patterned silk squares.

Halternecks made a reappearance in the 1970s when fashion took a nostalgic trip. There was Liza Minnelli, in the film *Cabaret*, dancing on a chair, wearing a black satin halterneck and 'hoopants'. There was Bianca Jagger twirling the floor at Studio 54 in a silk jersey version by Halston. The latest interpretation provides a simple way to look sexy. The halterneck can pass from day to evening, from beach to bar, without missing a beat.

LEFT: Blue knitted halterneck, £95; white stretch cotton skirt, £99, Joseph, 26 Sloane Street, London SW1; 77 Fulham Road, London SW3; 23 Old Bond Street, London W1.

RIGHT: Black crepe halterneck, £227, Sonnetag Mulligan, Harrods, Knightsbridge, London SW1; inquiries (0171) 384-3110. Clear plastic and black patent sandals, £135, Salvatore Ferragamo, 24 Old Bond Street, London W1; Frasers Glasgow.



ABOVE: Peach floral printed dress, £24.99, Kookai, 360 Oxford Street, London W1 and branches nationwide, inquiries (0171) 937 4411.

Bareback beauty

If you decide to join the fashion pack and wear a revealing halter top this summer, Kim Stringer, the associate fashion and beauty director of *ELLE*, explains the simplest way to keep your back and shoulders looking their best.

There are three stages. Begin with dry brushing which employs a big brush (preferably with a long handle) to brush your body. Using upward strokes, start at the wrist and work up the arms and then up the back to your shoulder. When finished, dampen your skin with a light water spray. Next, exfoliate using a gentle exfoliating scrub — Shiseido and Chanel make the best — rubbed on in circular movements, avoiding the sensitive neck area. The process removes the surface layer of dead cells which builds up normally, but is even more evident when skin has been hidden away under thick clothes during the winter. You should do this twice a week. It is particularly necessary to exfoliate if you intend to apply an instant tan as it will help achieve an even colour. Wait a few moments for the process to work, then rinse off with plain water or a fragranced shower gel. After jaffing, pat your body dry and finish with a silky body lotion. To feel really glamorous, dust the area lightly with a bronzing powder or, for evening, add a dusting of glitter.

SHISEIDO: Essential Energy Body Exfoliating Scrub, £19; Body Moisturising Emulsion, £21.50.

CHANEL: Gommage Corporal Body Exfoliator, £20.50; Emulsion Hydratante Body Lotion, £20.50; Bronze Lumière Poudre, £22.50.

GUERLAIN: Evolution Exfoliating Body Gel, £23.50; Evolution Body Emulsion, £30; Teint Dore Bronzer, £12.50.

GIVENCHY: Perfect Exfoliating Body Care, £17.25; Moisture Bath Body Care, £21.75; The Sun Prism Bronzer, £23.50.

All products above available from major department stores and leading chemists nationwide.

BODY SHOP: Marmelade Body Scrub, £4.85; Cocoa Butter Hand/Body Lotion, £1.15; Colourings Tinted Bronzing Powder, £4.40, from Body Shop branches nationwide.

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● JELLIES, the favourite shoes of holidaying children and 1970s punks, are back in fashion. Practical and cheap, they are available in glitter, clear, ultra-brights, flat and heeled. Patrick Cox, Shoe Designer of the Year, is selling jelly mules and sandals for £35. Office have styles by Stephane Kelian, priced at £29.99, and by Red or Dead, at £14.99, and a man's version for £9.99.

● BROWNS in South Molton Street, London W1, features the work of Cathryn Avison, a graduate of the Royal College of Arts, this

week at shop No 27. Intricate webs of embroidery make up the fabric for her collection of scarves and simple dresses. Prices for the scarves start at £550, the dresses at £800.

● PAUL SMITH limited edition jeans go on sale this month. Called Special Colours, the jeans — hipsters with a narrow leg — come in ten ultra-bright shades, each in a batch of 20. They cost £79 from Paul Smith Jeans, 9/11 Langley Court, London WC2.

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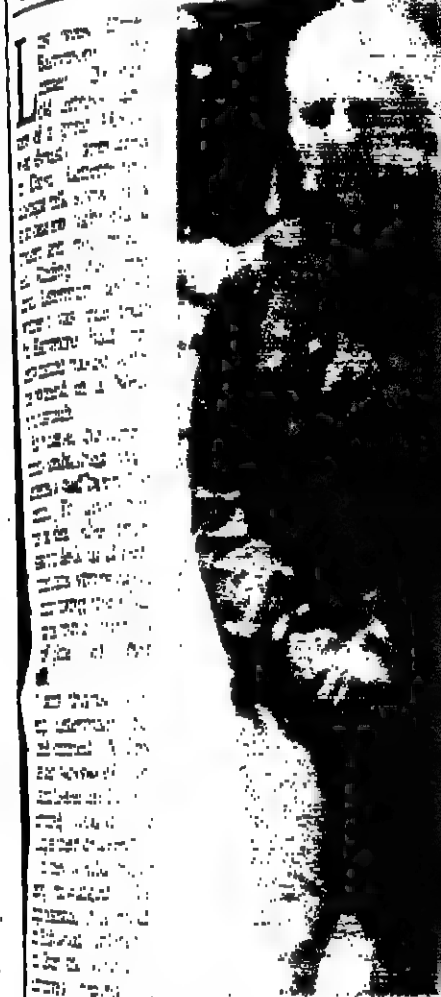
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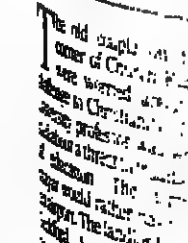
Hollywood hauntings

Brando's daughter
suffer from her parents' star wars



Young people — a small

folk villagers
are up in arms
over a planned
university
Giles Coren
reports



Paying for a healthier service

Nick Bosanquet on the soaring burden of costs in the NHS

Whatever Labour's position on free provision for its *in vitro* fertilisation turns out to be, the wider issue of the rationing of health care will not go away. The politics of the health service are on a collision course with its economics. For political reasons the NHS guarantees access to all for highly expensive health care, but the long-term effect of the Government's reforms will be to make this commitment difficult for politicians of all parties to keep to.

In recent years the NHS has become a much more attractive service, and probably more effective. Every performance indicator in sight is rising at 5 per cent or more a year, which when compounded means doubling of activity levels every two elections or so. This is just as well, for when the baby-boomers get old, they will doubtless expect free access to double joint-replacements.

The NHS is now producing more attractive services, and people want to use them. Elderly patients are dialling 999 to get to hospital for new cardiac therapy. Parents want growth hormones for their children, elderly patients want double knee-replacements, and couples want IVF treatment. Such services were not available at all in the past; now, in principle, the NHS could provide them.

Problems of "innovation rationing" are bound to arise with new services. People want to take advantage of them, but there is a shortage of staff with the skills, confidence and resources to provide them.

The NHS reforms have dealt well with yesterday's rationing problem of waiting-lists for established services. In the West Midlands, no hospital patient is waiting more than nine months. That would have seemed impossible just a few years ago. But the very success of the reforms has created a new problem of increased demand, and the better the service becomes, the more demand rises. Politicians have swapped the crisis over funding at national level for a series of local humanitarian crises over access to these improved services.

Labour's intention to abolish GP fund-holding might well have the perverse effect of reducing demand. By phasing out the group which has been most dynamic in pressing for better services, Labour might create operational difficulties which would bring about a flight to the private sector. But in due course a Labour government might well find new virtues in local public enterprise (as fund-holders could be re-labelled).

The next few months may see a constructive debate about how to fit the politics to the economics of the new, more responsive but more expensive NHS. A service led by primary care suggests a hopeful direction for development towards treatment decisions based on a continuing close relationship between patient and family doctor.

Meanwhile, new technology

offers a chance to reduce bureaucracy and to give patients more information.

Many fund-holders and GPs are already devoting more attention to developing services for those with serious illnesses. The next step must be greater pluralism and competition in providing services. There is room for new public initiatives, involving buy-ins and worker co-operatives. There is also room for new kinds of co-operation between the public and private sectors. Competition maximises the chances of low-cost innovation.

Even for infertility services, pluralism has much to offer. There are low-cost services for made infertility which are not provided because they are technologically unexciting; even in the case of IVF, more use of the service would reduce costs and highlight the most effective providers. The costs of services can fall sharply over time, as has happened with heart transplants.

The changes affecting providers must be linked to a much stronger drive to measure effectiveness and to concentrate spending on effective services.

Without other changes in demand and funding, these changes in supply will bring new problems of "innovation rationing". Any durable fit between politics and economics in the NHS must involve shared funding — a search for ways in which patients can contribute to their own treatment costs. Such direct patient involvement would be a spur to competition, as well as a useful source of additional funds.

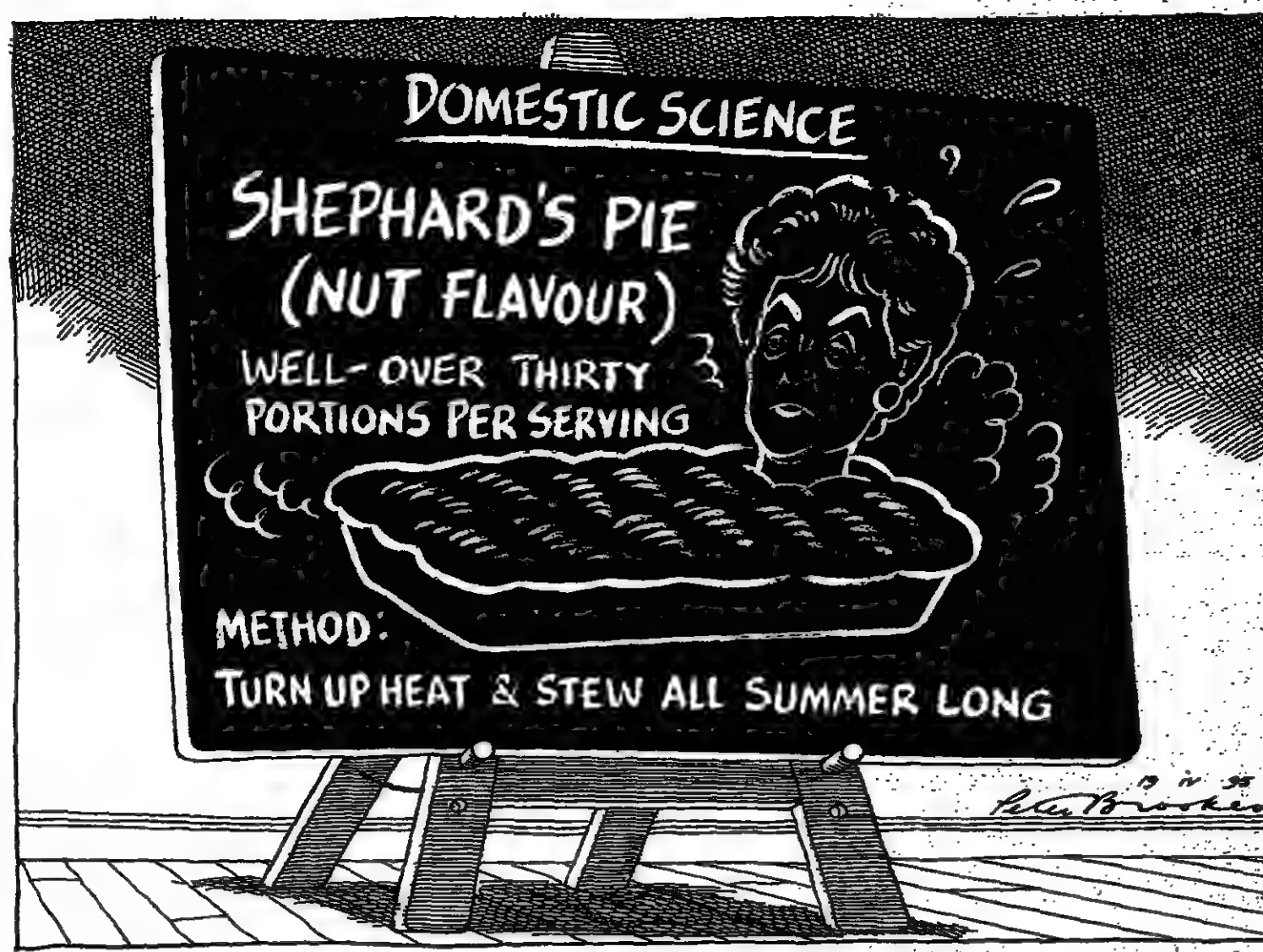
There is already substantial private funding of long-term care in nursing homes, and this has contributed to improvements in care. But it is inequitable to demand payment from elderly people in great need but not from younger people. Some people with serious long-term illnesses are already paying very high prescription charges, not for any defensible reason, but simply because they are the only source of funding.

Possible new funding could include an annual subscription for primary care. At £150 per household, this would be far less than the cost of house insurance, and even with exemptions it would cover costs of primary care.

Another option would be co-payment for a broad range of selective services, including such things as IVF and radiotherapy. These services are no more or less worthy than many others; there is no reason why people should not spend some of their own money on health, as well as on other kinds of service.

These changes could form the basis for a new political consensus. Politicians of all parties could lay down some of their self-imposed burden, and rely more on the good sense of citizens who wish to use or provide health services.

The author is professor of health policy at the University of London.



Let's trust our teachers

The Government needs to learn the meaning of professionalism

Every profession has its yobs. There are yob doctors, yob lawyers, yob accountants, certainly yob journalists. Trollope invented a yob archdeacon. Now we have yob teachers. Easter is when a few of them dust off the chalk, put on baggy jeans, ruffle their hair and bowl their heads off at some seaside resort. Most of their colleagues are driving through the Dordogne in their campers.

Parents are appalled. The Labour Party is appalled. The Tories are delighted. Letters are written to newspapers about people who should "set an example". But the National Union of Teachers conference is essentially no different from that of the British Medical Association, the Bar Council, the National Farmers Union or Actors Equity. They are Adam Smith's "concerts in restraint of trade". They are Bernard Shaw's conspiracies against the laity. They are trying to fix a price or on a public. The only problem with teaching unions is that they do it with so little elegance.

In the case of the teachers, I have some sympathy with the militants. If you intend to take industrial action in pursuit of a pay claim, you should do what any self-respecting profession does. You strike. You withdraw labour. Dentists are doing it. Legal aid solicitors are doing it. Police chiefs have just said they will do it, by not answering alarm calls. Doctors have threatened some opaque form of industrial sabotage over night visits. Farmers withdraw labour but call it "set aside" — and actually get paid more by the Government as a result. So who is setting whom an example?

The question is a matter of terms. If the teachers hate the Government so much, perhaps they should behave less like modern trade unionists. They should stop agonising over losing public support or risking jobs or damaging Tony Blair. They should have the courage of a true profession. They should thumb their noses at Government and public alike. They should say they will not administer ridiculous tests by which ministers have said their pay may be determined. They should refuse to teach classes that are now much larger than the European norm. They should send the perishers home and tell parents to pass them on to MPE's surgeries. The Government wants to run every school in the land through its so-called "funding councils". The

Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, fixes teachers' pay and caps school budgets. Gillian Shephard, *de facto* Treasury's Education Secretary, was a school inspector once. Let her be hoist with her own petard.

The trouble is, this landscape is thick with petards. Teachers want to be treated as "a profession", even when some of their number behave like fishwives. I have no satisfactory definition of a profession. I take it to imply a peculiar training in a received body of knowledge, and a service in which advice is taken on trust rather than conditioned by financial reward. Let reward become entwined with advice and the profession becomes a trade. The lawyer measures his plea, the surgeon his diagnosis; the scholar his research. These things may already happen, but we regard them as "un-professional" and seek to stop them by regulation and exclusion. Profiteering is for trade.

I believe teaching is a profession. It has struggled to elevate itself from the ushers and monitors of the 19th century, from learning by rote and payment by results. The masters and mistresses of the great grammar schools might be the doctors of the education service, but humbler teachers wanted to be more than nurses in attendance. In the 1960s and 1970s, they moved in that direction. Teaching was heading towards all-graduate status, and schools were heading towards a measure of professional autonomy. For a brief while, teachers were encouraged to help pupils to think for themselves, to "educate", rather than being told what to teach by universities and government inspectors. Some autonomy was abused, as in any profession. Mistakes were made. But I would venture that at the end of the 1970s most teachers were more professional and better respected than ever before.

Matters have slid. The strikes of 1985-86 were disastrous, not so much for the public obloquy they incurred as for the government response: Kenneth Baker's Great Reform Act. In

1987, teachers' pay was removed from independent determination and brought under Treasury control. A year later, classroom freedom in preparing pupils for public exams was ended. A national curriculum was introduced, with three-year testing, regular assessment and proposals for "performance-related" pay. As a first stage, league tables were introduced, the crudest of audit quantifiers. This undid the gains of the post-war period. It told teachers that ministers no longer trusted them to deliver satisfaction, either to parents or, to Mr. Baker's much-wanted "needs of the economy". In future, the Government would lay down what was to be taught. Inspectors would say how, and would measure the resulting output. Teachers must expect to be paid according to these quantities. Governors were given some discretion over resources, but the recent use of standardised local budgets has removed this discretion. When Mr. Clarke told governors to pay teachers 2.7 per cent more but allowed them only 0.8 per cent to do so, he knew he was signing the sackings notices of thousands of teachers. The Treasury can add two and two. Having turned teaching from a profession into a trade, the Government can hardly be surprised if it reacts like one.

Converting Britain's professions into trades now amounts to government policy. At its heart is the ending of trust as the basis of the client relationship, and its replacement by contract. Lord Mackay's proposal for "no-win, no-fee" arrangements for lawyers implies distrust. The wrangle over doctors' pay is moving in the same direction, with a plethora of "special payments" by health authorities for different items of work. The remuneration of academics is moving from fixed salaries to payment by points scored for scholastic output, measured by volume. Even senior civil servants, whose political and intellectually

impartial advice is crucial to good government, are to be on "performance" contracts. How to measure such performance is a mystery that will, I am sure, be resolved to much individual satisfaction.

This quantification undermines professional trust. If a doctor can make more, or less, money by a referral and the patient knows it, trust is gone. On contingency fees for lawyers, I have now read thousands of words and am convinced that Lord Mackay has lost the argument. Superficially I may like the idea that my lawyer has a vested interest in the success of my case. Deep down, I prefer not. Superficially, I may be happy that my child's school will earn him all the harder for earning more from his success. Deep down, I am not. I do not go to a professional with a mutually beneficial business proposition. I go for help.

I was amazed last week when the police announced that nine out of 10 alarm calls were false, so they would move them to the bottom of their "response" list. This was not the considered advice of the Metropolitan police or the Sussex or Northumbrian police or their local police committees or local electorates. It was a national response to a national statistic: the police are being measured, and ultimately paid, by their response times to alarms. Their collective decision was to protect themselves in any future bid for cash.

There is a macho phrase much in vogue in my circles. "If you pay peanuts, you get monkeys." It is used by civil servants pushing up each other's salaries and by non-executive directors explaining why they cannot curb executive remuneration. I am sure there are contexts in which it applies. In the non-monopolistic private sector, pay may — and sometimes must — reflect performance. In the professions, the maxim is both wrong and, I should have thought, insulting. One of the triumphs of the National Health Service was the concept of the salaried general practitioner, toiling for the health of rich and poor alike.

I suspect that if the Government wants all these groups to be paid by quantifiable results it will get what it wants. It will get efficiency and value for money, probably at a greedy inflationed cost. It will get uniformity and simplicity of audit. What is lost is harder to define, because what is lost is inherently unquantifiable. I can think of no other word for it but trust.

Simon Jenkins

Alan Coren

It's not the kill that counts, you know, it's the chase

I have taken up *foxhunting*. I know the grisly risks — intelligence but I am malleable in the hunt. Though I have become unspeakable — in pursuit, ironically, of what is now the only love left which date not speak its name — I can speak of little else. It is in my blood. Oscar would finally understand. I am no longer my own master. I am master of the Crickwood Hunt.

Before the more caring among you reach for your balustrades and pickhandles, allow me a few words. It is just possible they may be enough to avert a civil war, and that is a better use for a few words than to elapse one. Think of today's column as the Crickwood Address.

Sunday night was balmy, and halm being precisely what one needs after the spirit-riddling enfilade of the Sunday papers, I took a turn around the garden for that springtime procession of hoped-for regeneration disseminated by the waft of the wowing blossom, and the burp of the rutting frog. And as I sat with soothing tag and tumbler beneath the pear tree beside the pond, I grew gradually aware that I was not alone: first a rustle, could have been a toad, then a stiff, could have been a hedgehog, and finally, when I turned, two yellow eyes. Could have been a cat — until my own iris, adjusting to the dark, suddenly revealed, much in the manner of those magic eye pictures, the outline of a fox.

W e looked at one another for a bit. It rained in-head, slightly, and sniffed again; but — whether because there was too little wind for me usefully to be down of it or because the fox lacks humankind's typically prissy objections to Silt Cut and Vat 69 — I cannot say — it did not move.

This was unsettling. I had been led to believe that foxes were more afraid of us than we of them, which had always seemed plausible given that foxes did not congregate in reinforced turrets and red rail-coats to set about lone citizens engaged on an innocent rural potter, but possibly that was then and this was now. The new urban fox might be a more evolved, and in the absence of the ducks and rabbits which elsewhere formed the vulpine diet, fancy a nice bit of man.

So I stood up. But the fox merely trotted, unhurriedly, across the lawn towards the narrow gap between houses which gives access to the road. It gives it, mind, only after, if you are not a fox, you have covered yourself in mud and left half your shirt on a wall-nail and half your ear on an air-vent. But damage is the huntmaster's lot. We do not stop for pain.

Out on the street I saw my quarry turn the corner. It was making for the playing-fields opposite. I urged myself into a canter. The fox went under the perimeter fence. The huntmaster's cry was bound. A bound and a scramble and a prattle on the other side. But no matter, we were both in open country, now, the fox at a lope, the huntmaster at full gallop, a fine serendipitous sight, in the moonlight, for any townies setting an alarm-clock or flossing teeth, and one glimpsed hitherto only on biscuit-tins. I wished for their sakes, I had a hunting lasso to blow. For my own, I required only the rushing wind on my face, the sweat springing on dewy grass — the thrill, in short, of the chase.

For the fox, however, it went at last to earth, which is what we countrymen call Crickwood Trading Estate, a place full of floodlit security signs going "Oy!" from which, even the bravest spirit shrinks, so I reined in, and turned for home at a steady lurch, there to pull off my muddied clothes, Elastoplast my sporty wounds, quaff a sturppup and lie exhausted and exhausted together, at one with Jorrock's stout opinion that "untiring is all that's worth living for, all time is lost not is not spent untiring, it is the hair we breathe!

But wondering (I promised a solution for our divided culture) why foxhunting demanded dead foxes. Why not simply stalk after them? Behind, if required, muzzled hounds? That, surely, is where the fun is, if we are not ourselves beasts, and it would be bound to preserve the sport by spiking its opponents' only genuine gun. I do believe I shall try it down here in Crickwood. All I need is a horse and a decent tailor.

Unbecoming

VETERANS OF one of London's grandest military clubs are bracing themselves with trepidation for their first dinner with the Duchess of York. The event, next month at the Naval & Military Club in Piccadilly, is in aid of Children in Crisis, of which the Duchess is chairman.

An ugly precedent was set just a few weeks ago at the Merchant Taylors' Hall in the City of London, where the Duchess was guest of

honour at another Children in Crisis dinner.

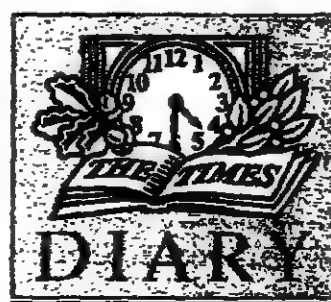
Behaviour descended to the level of a rugby-club supper when television's wily joker Jeremy Beadle ordered all the men participating in a bingo game to drop their trousers. While some declined, others, including Ivana Trump's fiancé Riccardo Mazzuchelli, boisterously debagged in front of the Duchess.

Beadle is firmly off the guest-

list for the party at the In and Out, which is being organised by Pauline Quirk and Linda Robson, stars of the Essex-based sitcom *Birds of a Feather*. The event will be filmed for a special Christmas edition of their new series *Jobs for the Girls*, and Rolf Harris has declined the invitations.

"The In and Out thought hard before agreeing to host the dinner. But last month's shenanigans have caused consternation about the decision. 'We certainly don't want any of that sort of carry-on in here,' barks Commander Anthony Holt, the club's secretary. 'We are a little concerned, but will be pretty swift to put a stop to any silliness.'"

The idea was suggested to me by a clergyman himself, explains Darina Allen, who is running the course. "Some of the poor souls can barely boil water you know, and celibate priests are finding it very difficult to get a housekeeper these days. A lot of them live on nasty takeaways."



Mrs Allen does not overburden her novice chefs. "I keep it simple: stews and casseroles they can eat for a few days and soups and soda bread."

So what will the next course for the clergy at Ballymaloe be about? Interior decor and window box arrangements for vicarages.

Albert Reynolds, the teetotal former Taoiseach, is to visit Cambridge in the summer to address both the Union and the Conservative Association. One event is to be sponsored by whisky distillers, the other is supported by a local pub.

High notes

AFTER the recent hullabaloo over seat prices for Luciano Pavarotti's four appearances at Covent Garden (£267 a shout for the Grand

Tier), Covent Garden is bracing itself for a fresh onslaught.

This time it centres on prices for the forthcoming production of Purcell's *King Arthur*, which is an import from France. A month or two ago, the top price in Paris at the Theatre du Chatelet was £63; however, the top price at Covent Garden for the same production is to be £133.50. The pricing will be explained next week, says the opera house: "At any rate, the average price of a ticket over the season is still about £60."

Success at the Adam Smith Institute, the right-wing think-tank.

Jean-Jacques Burnel, a fellow Frenchman who teaches karate and plays bass for the band, says Cantona has been punished too severely. "He's done more for Anglo-French relations than anyone since Brigitte Bardot. You English should be grateful for him." Burnel admits that he, too, once attacked a spectator, but at a concert. "He insulted my mother, so I put down my guitar, leapt off the stage and landed him in hospital."

"On the rocks, sir"

can be readily identified. Staff with ideas considered wholly impractical by the Government are given a buff-and-blue tie (old Whig colours). A silver tie is conferred when a minister actively considers a proposal. But when an idea becomes government policy, its originator is awarded a gold tie.

Hard rock

AS ERIC CANTONA started his first session of community service yesterday, news of support for him filtered through from the world of rock music. The ageing punk rock band The Stranglers are off on a British tour to celebrate their 20th anniversary, and it is said there may be a tribute to Cantona in their repertoire.

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P.H.S.



هناك من الامم



ARMS AND THE RUSSIANS

Time for listening to Kozyrev with care

The building of modern Russia is inseparable, in Russian minds, from Ivan the Terrible's great 16th century imperial project to "gather the lands of Rus". In recent years the collapse of empire has been harder for many Russians to accept than the discrediting of the Communist system. To the alarm of many listeners in the West, Andrei Kozyrev, the Russian Foreign Minister, openly referred yesterday in Moscow to the possible use of Russian military force to protect ethnic Russians in the republics of the former Soviet Union.

The "plight" of more than 20 million Russian-speakers in these republics is ready tinder for Russian ultra-nationalists. As Russia prepares to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the "great patriotic victory" over Germany next month, there is a particular surge of nostalgia for lost power. Even Stalin came in for praise for his "wartime leadership" from Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Prime Minister, yesterday. In this renewed national debate about "Great Russia", Mr Kozyrev would be politically inept if he did not watch his back. European foreign ministries need not sound the alarms quite yet, although they should certainly keep close watch.

Many of these Russian communities, minorities where they were once masters, have felt sufficiently threatened that last year 254,000 emigrated, in difficult circumstances, "home" to Russia. In the Baltics, tensions have eased — partly because Russians there believe that they will be more prosperous if they stay. But in Central Asia, where Mr Kozyrev singled out Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan for criticism, the trend towards presidential dictatorships has added to Russian anxiety about discrimination.

Over Crimea, passions have been running high in Russia since last month, when Kiev bloodlessly reasserted its central authority. Then, the Kremlin said that this was Ukraine's internal affair. Yesterday, Mr Kozyrev warned Ukraine to respect "the will

of Crimea" — a veiled reference to the separatist campaign by its Russian-speaking leaders. But there is no hint of sending in troops; and it took some courage for Mr Kozyrev to tell Russians not to be "overwhelmed by our emotions" and to remember that "there are more things that unite us with Ukraine than divide us".

The West has insisted that Moscow respect the sovereignty of these republics and formally, Russia acknowledges this as a legal obligation. But most Russians believe that they should be first among equals in their former empire. The Kremlin's official stance has always been vulnerable to the nationalist charge that the West was using legal arguments to trap Russia within shrunken frontiers imposed on it through temporary weakness. In Georgia and Moldova, Russian military meddling has ensured that "co-operation" by its leaders is forthcoming in practice. If, as Mr Kozyrev told Warren Christopher in Geneva last month, "the honeymoon is over" in Russian relations with the West, the "near abroad" will be a likely testing bed for a more assertive neo-imperialist Russian policy.

Despite Mr Kozyrev's dark hints, Russia is unlikely to be unenthusiastic about relying on military power to rebuild influence. Moscow already has its hands full on the "home front" of Chechnya, not to mention Tajikistan. As Russian politicians reposition themselves for elections this December, tough talk about the interests of Great Russia is to be expected. But Mr Kozyrev reserved his fiercest fire yesterday for ultra-nationalists whom he accused of leading Russia towards ethnic conflicts and international isolation. If Russia's latest bid for economic stabilisation succeeds, many of these states will be peacefully drawn back into Moscow's orbit. One lesson of communism's collapse was that economic weakness ultimately erodes empires. The most reassuring aspect of Russian foreign policy is that the Yeltsin Government still appears to have this lesson firmly before it.

FACE THE TEACHERS

Shephard scores A for diplomacy, B for education

Gillian Shephard gave an accomplished performance at the conference of the second largest teaching union yesterday. She warned members of the NASUWT that disruptive industrial action and undisciplined behaviour could discredit the profession. But by setting those admonitory words in a context of conciliatory support for union concerns, she won herself a generally polite reception.

Her approach was politically skilful. It also looks dangerously like that of an over-optimistic schoolteacher trying to exact good behaviour from her charges by appeals to their own better judgment. After David Blunkett's experience at the hands of National Union of Teachers delegates, Mrs Shephard's ability to maintain a polite dialogue with teachers seems like a diplomatic triumph. But many parents may by now be wondering whether civility and conciliation are really what is called for in dealing with the teaching unions.

Mr Blunkett's barracking by NUT extremists was provoked by his readiness to condemn bad teaching. The chant of the militant delegates was, "sack Tories, not teachers". Embedded in that simplistic slogan is a notion which is widely believed within the profession: that teachers should never be criticised, and that all the ills of the school system are due to inadequate funding. By implying that she is working alongside the unions against the strictures of the Treasury, Mrs Shephard struck the impression that she accepts this view.

She has clearly hoped that by gaining the trust of the unions, she could protect the Government's education reforms from further disruption. But even Mrs Shephard's

political management skills cannot control the wrecking tendency within the NUT, which voted yesterday for a ballot on a national one-day strike over class sizes.

Class size has not been shown to be correlated to academic performance. Larger classes would present few problems if teachers were not ideologically opposed to "whole class" teaching. But it is a simple issue for sloganeers: their show of orchestrated militancy provoked the NUT general secretary, Doug McAvoy, yesterday to castigate those delegates who put "the ideas and aspirations of their political groups above the interests of members".

It is futile to appease a union which is being manipulated by political activists. The answer to the problem of declining educational standards does not lie in meeting constant demands for more funds. The Prime Minister pointed out in the House yesterday that education spending per secondary pupil is higher in Britain than in Germany or Japan. Spending per primary pupil is higher in this country than in Germany and France. Tony Blair returned by equating NUT "extremists" with government "extremism" on education — even though the comments of Labour's education spokesman were seen by teachers as more extreme than those of Mrs Shephard.

There will be little hope of improving the nation's schools without challenging the assumptions — and the hegemony — of the teaching unions. The Government has gone some way to ensuring that school funding is well spent. It must continue to address the real problems of poor educational attainment which lie with teaching methods and teacher competence.

CRIME AND PENALTIES

Nothing becomes a superstar like teaching the young to shoot

When the shamed lion teaches his pride, the lesser predators of the jungle gather round trying to hide their smiles. Eric Cantona, the existentialist aphorist of football, began his 120 hours of community service yesterday. At his suggestion, for the next three months he will spend two hours an afternoon coaching groups of children from soccer teams and schools around Manchester. Yesterday afternoon there was a mass turn-out outside Manchester United's training ground in Salford as scavengers picked from the bones of an affair that has confused notoriety with fame and sinners with saints.

Probability suggests that few of the 700 children who are down to be coached by Cantona will eventually play professional football or star on television again. But at least they will have a story to tell. It is said that more outlaws learnt their archery from Robin Hood than could hide in Sherwood forest. If all those who say they saw Roger Bannister break the four-minute mile in 1954 are telling the truth, he must have run in the Wembley Stadium rather than at the little track up the Illey Road. For the next generation men in Manchester are going to strip their sleeves and flaunt their strips, and claim to have been coached by Cantona.

Cantona's original sentence of imprisonment was as absurdly over-the-top as his scissors-kick at a violently abusive Crystal Palace supporter. The magistrates would

probably not have imposed the sentence but for the floodlights of publicity turned on the toughish exchange by endless television replays. He may not play much football in England again, having now made himself a darting target for the job ethics of professional football. But his dignified restitution in passing on his magic to the young does show some obedience, at least, to the legendary spirit of the sport, as practised by its vanished Corinthian heroes. Some children of Manchester will have the proudest days of their lives.

The Cantona school might also improve the style of graffiti around Old Trafford from the clichés of "Vulgarity Rules, OK". There must be wall-space for something about how "The Great Ref in the Sky rules that a footballer is a stud short of a full set to kick a paying spectator instead of the ball." Cantona may learn discretion: British footballers may prove that they too can be as philosophical as the French, drawing perhaps on Sir Thomas Elyot, who wrote in *The Book of the Governor*, the first treatise on education in English, of "football, wherein is nothing but beastly fury, and extreme violence, whereof proceedeth hurt, and consequently rancour and malice do remain with them that be wounded". Or then, as some muddled philosopher later declared: "Football's football; if that weren't the case, it wouldn't be the game it is."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Merger of London's medical schools Arts Council as property developer

From the Principal of Queen Mary and Westfield College

Sir, The President of the Royal College of Physicians has drawn attention (letter, April 10) to the importance of the reorganisation of medical schools in London, linking them to large multi-faculty colleges. He points out that the plans "are well supported by the clinical/academic community and major grant-giving bodies" and notes that the "clinical and scientific benefits... should not be underestimated".

It is disturbing that one part of this reorganisation — the merger of St Bartholomew's and the London Hospital medical colleges with Queen Mary and Westfield College — is now in peril. The Queen Mary and Westfield College Bill, which will effect this merger, is to be debated in the House of Commons on April 19, its second reading having so far been blocked by a group of MPs concerned about the future of St Bartholomew's Hospital.

These MPs should know that the hospital issue is quite separate and

that the three colleges are committed to this merger whatever happens to the hospital. They should also know that obstructing or delaying this merger will have no impact at all on the hospital issue.

The colleges have no doubt that their future lies in this amalgamation, which will create one of the country's major research university institutions, with 8,500 students, 3,000 staff, and turnover in excess of £100 million a year, including research funding of over £40 million a year.

Our plans are well advanced for merger on August 1. Any delay at this stage can only inflict wholly gratuitous damage. I appeal again to those MPs who have blocked the Bill to consider the consequences of their action and allow the second reading; and I urge all other MPs to support the Bill.

Yours faithfully,
GRAHAM ZELLOCK, Principal,
Queen Mary and Westfield College,
London E1 4NS,
April 18.

Raising the standard of patient care

From Dr Verna P. Houghton

Sir, Mrs Bottomley has spoken repeatedly this past week of creating "state of the art" hospitals, "centres of excellence" ... "fit for medicine in the 21st century". Has she forgotten that she personally turned the first sod for Philip Harris House, the £150 million development of Guy's as "the flagship hospital of the NHS", following its launch by her predecessor, Kenneth Clarke, in July 1990.

The Prime Minister was present at the topping-out ceremony in July 1991. Designed as the most advanced hospital in Britain, with 21st-century facilities and equipment for all conceivable acute and emergency treatment, it is destined to be stripped and relegated to office and research use, apparently because the Secretary of State for Health has changed her mind.

Think again, Mrs Bottomley. At least one of your state-of-the-art, world-class hospitals for the 21st century already exists. Why destroy it?

Yours faithfully,
VERNA P. HOUGHTON,
The Surgery,
Woosell, Wokingham, Berkshire,
April 8.

From Dr Howard Baderman and Dr A. H. Goldstone

Sir, The public is bound to support its local hospital, with its own accident and emergency department; but this may not be in the best interest of patients when more complex medical problems present themselves.

For people to get the service they need 24 hours a day for any injury or

disease, no matter its severity, requires senior and experienced doctors and nurses from many specialties. These cannot be available continuously in 48 separate A&E departments in London. The staff do not exist; equally importantly, those there are would not maintain their skills at a top level if the work were divided 48 ways.

A smaller number of larger clinical teams gives the patient the best chance, each team supported by a greater number of intensive care and specialised beds. The larger enterprise is better able to respond to a request for help from another hospital, making specialist referral easier.

Nowhere in the country apart from London would a distance of six miles between accident and emergency departments be considered unsafe. Distances for Londoners will still be no more than this.

Emotive support for each and every A&E department, as if they could all be omniscient, is the enemy of achieving high standards of care and prompt attention for the patient. London will have a higher-quality health service and a pre-eminent teaching and research position when the changes are effected, but certainly not if we try to maintain the status quo.

Yours faithfully,
HOWARD BADERMAN,
(Clinical Director,
Accident and Emergency),
A. H. GOLDSTONE,
(Medical Director),
The University College London
Hospitals,
25 Grafton Way, WC1,
April 6.

'Instant' gambling

From Dr Mark Griffiths

Sir, As someone who has been carrying out research into gambling behaviour for over seven years, one thing which I know to be well established is that gambling activities in which the time between money being gambled and knowing the result of the gamble is short (like fruit-machines and roulette) tend to be more addictive than those gambling activities with long-time gaps (like the weekly National Lottery and football pools).

Camelot's recently introduced "Instant" scratch-and-lottery is not an extension of the National Lottery but a totally separate form of gambling which gives all purchasers the chance to gamble repeatedly (rather than once a week) for a £50,000 prize.

The scratch cards are little more than paper fruit-machines and thus will be potentially addictive to some. Moreover, they are available to young people and provide adolescents with another form of legalised gambling.

Government steps should be taken to monitor potential problems with this form of high-frequency gambling.

Yours faithfully,
MARK GRIFFITHS
(Trustee, UK Forum on Young People and Gambling),
University of Plymouth,
Psychology Department,
Drake Circus, Plymouth, Devon.

Churchill's reward

From Mr Nicholas Peto

Sir, Your Diary of April 17 illustrates a signed photograph of Sir Winston Churchill on horseback. He climbed aboard this elegant steed in 1948 to demonstrate his wholehearted support for the pro-hunting lobby. There was a move in the Commons (which at that time had a large Labour majority) to pass a Bill abolishing fox-hunting.

All MPs who actively opposed the Bill were rewarded after it was defeated with a signed copy of this photograph. I have one on my desk as I write, and the story was told to me by my father, who was at that time MP for North Devon and chairman of the Torrington Farmers Hunt.

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS PETO,
Grey Walls,
Chaddington, Oxfordshire,
April 18.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

From Mr Robin Dartington

Sir, Government made the Arts Council joint owner and trustee of the Royal Opera House extension site specifically because MPs feared that, if there was not a public watchdog, a scheme would be prepared that called for further public funds for the redevelopment (letter from Mr Peter Gummer, Chairman of the Arts Council's National Lottery Board, April 12). The Royal Opera House accepted the powers to develop the site subject to the proviso that progress would depend on its own ability to raise the money.

The Arts Council has not only failed to exercise a restraining influence, but has actively helped fund the preliminary costs (now a staggering £21 million even before the scheme has obtained funding) by passing over annually its half-share of the rents from the site. It is therefore an investor in the scheme, and would have much to lose if the scheme stopped and there was a public inquiry.

The policy direction from the Department of National Heritage is very clear that the Arts Council may not distribute lottery funds to a body over which it has material influence or control. That obviously covers joint ownership and active investment. The Department's directive was issued under powers granted in law

under the National Lottery Act. If that is ignored by Mr Gummer, the grant might be challenged in the courts by any arts organisation refused funds after the Royal Opera House has scooped the pool. Is this the boost to the quality of life we hoped for from the National Lottery?

Yours sincerely,
ROBIN DARTINGTON
(Project Director,
Royal Opera House, 1978-88)
6 Chiltern Road,
Hitchin, Hertfordshire.

From Professor H.C. Higgins

Sir, By including detailed design in the scope of the South Bank feasibility study, Peter Gummer explains the size of the Arts Council award to its deputy chairman architect, but not its propriety. Denis Vaughan (letter, April 8) raises the real issue, the wisdom of the decision to "invest [public money] in the luxury of a glass cage" to cocoon unsatisfactory public buildings "when the performances will not improve as a result". A clear answer to this criticism should precede any detailed design to justify a costly, albeit amusing, idea to renovate the existing public facilities of the South Bank.

Yours faithfully,
HAL HIGGINS,
15 Bury Walk, Chelsea, SW3.

Press and privacy

From Mr Malcolm Morse

Sir, On BBC Radio Four on April 12 Lord Wakeham said that the press "have got to have the right" to investigate crime. This is a novel doctrine and, coming from the chairman of the Press Complaints Commission, a disturbing one.

The police have a duty to investigate crime, and powers given by Act of Parliament enable them to perform that duty. If they misuse or exceed their powers they are disciplined, the powers may be removed and they may be discharged from their duty. Either event is seen as a punishment. Misuse of or exceeding their powers may (and often does) lead to their investigation being useless, since the courts intervene by excluding any evidence obtained or by refusing to convict.

As yet, even the police have no "right", as such, to investigate crime. No power or agency in our State has such a right (except possibly the Crown itself). A right cannot exist without a duty corresponding to it. No citizen has a duty to assist the press in anything, let alone in investigating other citizens.

If the press itself believes that it has a right to investigate people, that is frightening enough. If the Press Complaints Commission is led by a man who believes that such a right not only exists but needs to be protected above

the safeguarding of the citizen's privacy, that is even more frightening.

Yours faithfully,
MALCOLM MORSE,
1 Fountain Court,
Steelhouse Lane, Birmingham 4.

From Mr Andrew Turner

Sir, Simon Jenkins states ("Why he is wrong to sue", April 12) that "the word of a Cabinet minister... should be able to stand alone". I notice, too, on the Letters page of the same issue, that a correspondent has written to draw attention to the fact that our Government has spent £253 million on public relations each year.

Sir, if the Government quite clearly believes that the word of a Cabinet minister is not enough, why should we? Yours faithfully,
ANDREW TURNER,
16 Redcar Road, Little Lever,
Bolton, Lancashire.

From Mr William Brookmyre

Sir, Your leading article, "Pressed men", of April 11, contained the sentence: "The right of the press to define and defend the public interest is reaffirmed." I am astounded at the effrontery of such a claim.

Defend — perhaps. Define — never. Yours faithfully,
W. BROOKMYRE,
14 Torr Crescent, Rhu,
Helenburgh, Dunbartonshire.

Tax and savings

From Mr Stuart Jones

Sir, As one of the "baby boomers" I am delighted to see some new thinking with regard to pension provision (report, April 7; see also letters, April 15). I hope the idea is not spoiled by allowing the life insurance companies to administer the schemes and reduce my savings and those of my fellow "boomers" by their high charges.

Dare I suggest that the Government can satisfy its desire to allow private enterprise to participate in government work by offering the ultimate privatisation — allowing individuals to administer their own schemes.

Yours faithfully,
J. S. JONES,
67 Sedburgh Road, Kendal, Cumbria.

From Mr Edward Chaplin

Sir, This Government knows all about cuts in health services and hospitals, inland sleeper services and in education — but it knows nothing about cuts in taxes.

Yours sincerely,
EDWARD CHAPLIN,
Englewood, Pine Avenue,
Camberley, Surrey.

Old acquaintance

From Mrs Audrey Gardner (née Blanshard)

Sir, I'm afraid sex discrimination is rife in your correspondence columns (letters, March 31, April 5, 6, 14). I have not heard from a single long-lost friend after publication of a letter; but then, unless we married women are introduced as above, how could we?

Yours sincerely,
AUDREY GARDNER,
Mortcombe, Cherry Bridge,
Barbrook, Lynton, Devon.

From Colonel J. I. G. Capadose

Sir, Should not old acquaintance be forgotten, one wonders? Shortly after you had published a letter of mine on September 7, 1994, I received a letter from a lady whom I had not met for some 60 years. The text was brief: Whilst on the subject of reminiscences, do you remember disturbing poor Mr Ian Gilmour's valiant attempts to teach us our catechism in the cloisters at Gordon Square by tearing the loose part of the oil cloth under the table we were sitting at? We girls were in awe of your audacity!

Yours faithfully,
JAMES CAPADOSE,
Breaches, Vicarage Hill,
Westharm, Kent.

Smokers' rights

From Mr James McFarlane

Sir, The chairman of Ash (letter, April 12; other letters, April 17, 18) asserts that, as "non-smoking is now the norm in society", Network South-Central is justified in withdrawing all facilities for those who smoke. Perhaps he should remember that when smoking was the norm, non-smoking accommodation was nevertheless provided on trains. Smokers simply look for a reciprocal courtesy.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES MCFARLANE,
24 Broad Street, Ludlow, Shropshire.

From Mrs Julia Dickinson

Sir, I am heavily pregnant and, thankfully, won't be commuting on the Brighton line for much longer; but I shall long remember the misery of commuting whilst battling with chronic exhaustion and morning sickness during my first four months of pregnancy. Someone lighting up near me was the last straw.

Smokers whom I asked to stub out their cigarettes were usually indignant; but most of them, after checking my face to see that imminent vomiting was not an idle threat, decided to do so or to move. It seems that the answer is to acquire an even more disgusting habit.

Yours faithfully,
JULIA DICKINSON,
23 Charlesfield Road, Horley, Surrey,
April 12.

When to pop over

From Mr John Ullman

Sir, Your travel article on short breaks across the Channel (Weekend, April 8) featured a saving of £1,440 on wines purchased in France for 250 guests at a UK wedding.

The largest part of the savings was on 84 bottles of '88 vintage Champagne (£140) and 84 bottles of non-vintage (£327).

I am planning a similar party but am intrigued by the logistics: am I to serve the vintage first, followed by the non-vintage, or the other way round, or just try to give the vintage to those guests who I judge might know the difference?

Yours truly,
JOHN ULLMAN,
11 Beula Close, Kenley, Surrey,
April 13.

Better to give?

From Mr Robert Gower

Sir, A friend rang triumphantly yesterday to announce that he had purchased his first mobile phone. Should my response have been one of congratulation or commiseration?

With such an instrument, is it more blessed to make calls, or to receive them?

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT GOWER,
Eggleton, Oakham, Rutland,
April 14.

OBITUARIES

ARTURO FRONDIZI

Arturo Frondizi, President of Argentina, 1958-1962, died yesterday aged 86. He was born in Paso de los Libres, Corrientes province, on October 28 1908.

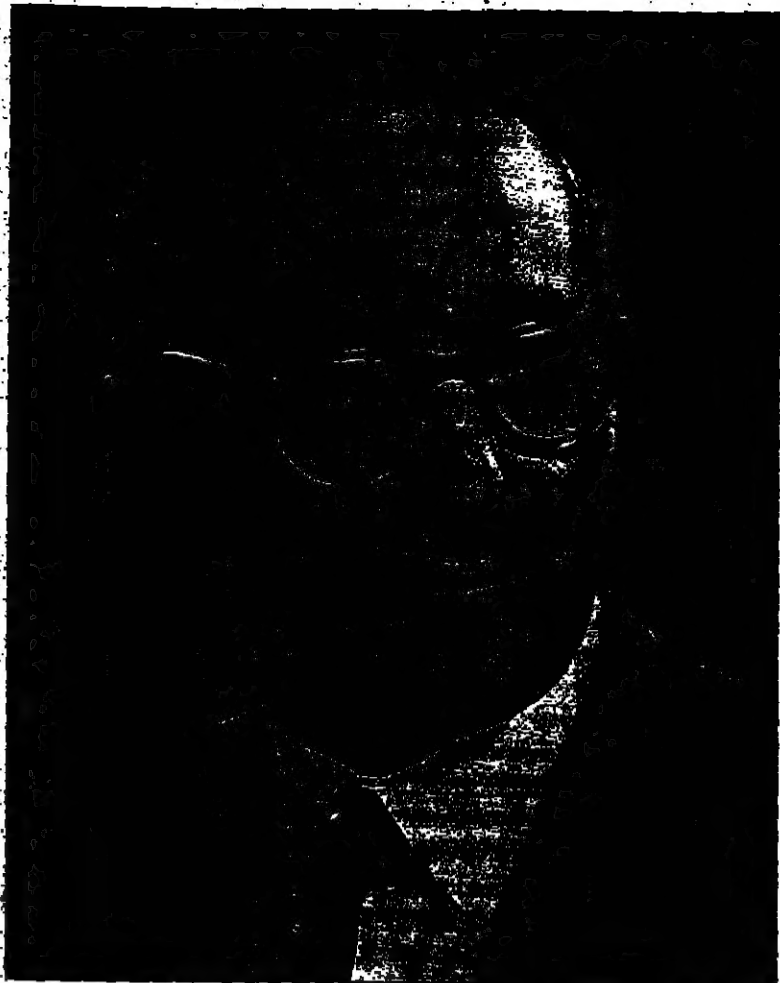
THE four-year presidency of Arturo Frondizi was something of an interregnum between two periods of military rule in Argentina. He and his successor as President, Arturo Illia (1963-66), were both democratically-elected radicals who wanted to better the lot of the poor while at the same time giving a firm grip on the economy. The theme of Frondizi's presidency was the "reunion of the Argentine family".

But in Frondizi's case the price he had paid for being voted into office—the support of Peronists whose champion had been forced out of the presidency into exile in 1955—proved to be too high. The dictatorial character of the Peron regime in its later years (Peron had originally been democratically elected in 1946) made it difficult for workers whose wage rises Peron had resisted to stomach what they saw as an unholy alliance between the supposedly liberal Frondizi and the supporters of the exiled dictator. In the end, the military, antagonistic to Peron and decisive as so often in Argentina's affairs, terminated Frondizi's presidency, though allowing a continuation of the liberal experiment in the following year.

Arturo Frondizi was one of the youngest of the 14 children of Julio and Isabel Frondizi, who arrived in Argentina in the early 1890s from Gubbio, Italy. Arturo's earliest education was in a small school at Concepción del Uruguay. Later, in Buenos Aires, he entered the Mariano Moreno college. His first inclination was to study medicine but he changed his mind and decided to become a lawyer. He entered the University of Buenos Aires as a law student in 1927 and graduated three years later.

On September 6, 1930, a revolution had overthrown the radical President Hipólito Yrigoyen and the young Frondizi was among the groups which engaged in street demonstrations against the provisional government headed by Lieutenant-General Uriburu. He was arrested and jailed for 20 days. On release he declined to receive his diploma from the new university authorities, alleging that their appointment was illegal and that they were men who made freedom of thought a crime.

Entering the ranks of the then United Radical Party, he quickly became one of its most active members, noted for his writing and public speaking. He came into prominence when he bitterly attacked the radical municipal councilors who voted for the extension of the light and power concessions held by a foreign-controlled company. He



legged that the transaction had been surrounded by graft and corruption. This nearly cost him his life when he was shot at in 1936 at a party conference.

While he was coming to prominence as a politician, he was rapidly making his reputation as a lawyer. He was especially sought after for the defence of Communists who fell foul of the authorities. His pronounced liberal leanings also led him frequently to attack Nazis and Fascists before and during the Second World War.

But Frondizi's democratic outlook on world affairs did not prevent him from adopting a strongly nationalist attitude where Argentine interests were involved. He repeatedly proclaimed Argentine rights over the Falklands and areas of the Antarctic.

Elected a national deputy in 1946, Frondizi quickly made his presence felt in the Chamber. He had made a close study of the petroleum question and wrote and spoke against any suggestion that the country's oil reserves should be developed with foreign aid. Indeed he demanded the expropriation of the foreign petroleum companies already in existence. He also sought to have a strict valuation placed on the

foreign-owned railways, as a prelude to their subsequent nationalisation and asked that there should be an investigation into the affairs of the big land companies. The targets, in many of these cases, were British enterprises.

By 1951, after only five years in Congress, Frondizi was adopted radical candidate for the vice-presidency of the republic. His fellow radical, who was seeking to take the presidency from Peron, was Ricardo Balbin. But in that climate in which Peronism was firmly established, the radicals were handsomely defeated.

After the 1955 revolution which overthrew Peron, however, it seemed more than probable that, once the probationary period of a provisional government had ended, the radicals would be elected to rule the country. But Balbin and his supporters were caught napping by Frondizi. At a hastily organised party convention in 1956, Frondizi was nominated presidential candidate.

Proclaiming that the reunion of the Argentine family was a necessity, he advocated "reintegration". His representatives entered into a pact with the exiled dictator and, with the aid of the Peronist vote, Frondizi was swept into

the presidency and assumed office on May 1, 1958. He proclaimed himself not the representative of any single party but the "President of 20 million Argentines".

To assure a popular following, he immediately increased wages. To comply with Frondizi's obligations under the secret pact with Peron, his followers who were in jail were released and pardoned. But this led to trouble with those who had suffered under Peron's autocratic regime and hoped for something different from the liberal revolution. There was friction with the armed forces, strife with the judiciary and trouble with the students. Strike after strike occurred and when Peronist-inspired conflict broke out among the oil workers, a state of emergency was declared.

Meanwhile, Frondizi tried to tackle the nation's economic problems. Casting overboard all his previously published theories, he opened up the development of the oil reserves to foreign capital and foreign experts. He increased the frequency of state visits abroad, meeting Harold Macmillan in London as well as visiting France, Spain, Germany and a number of other European countries. He also called on President Eisenhower in Washington.

But internal crises continued. The cutting in half of the foreign exchange value of the peso was a rude blow to the masses and the cost of living soared. The armed forces continued to be suspicious of the President's sympathy with the Peronists, and when the Peronists met with unexpected success in the partial elections of March 18, 1962, it was the end for Frondizi. A ten days' crisis ended in the overthrow of a President whose four years of office had produced more than 30 crises. He refused to resign and was arrested in the early hours of March 29 and taken to Martín García Island near Buenos Aires.

After his release he continued politically active, still on the coast tails of Peronism. He headed a small, moderate party and allied it to the coalition that swept Peron and his wife Isabel to victory in the elections of 1973. But when Peron died the following year and Isabel, as vice-president, inherited the presidency, Frondizi, despite his alliance, soon became one of the many voices raised in criticising her policies and the way she was failing to stop the escalating political violence.

His own brother, Silvio Frondizi, a lawyer who defended political prisoners and guerrilla suspects, was kidnapped and murdered by a right-wing terrorist organisation in September 1974. Eventually, in the 1980s Frondizi finally retired from active politics.

He married Elena Faggionato in 1933, and they had a daughter. Both predeceased him.

ARTHUR ENGLISH

Arthur English, comedian and comic actor, died in hospital in Camberley, Surrey, on Sunday aged 75. He was born in Aldershot, Hampshire, on May 9, 1919.



A PARTICULAR strand of postwar British folklore was brilliantly captured by Arthur English's portrayal of the Spiv or Wide-Boy during the 1950s. During that decade, the austerities of rationing and wartime shortages were vividly remembered, and the dubious characters who made a living by illicit or unscrupulous wheeling and dealing in blackmarket trade were still a notorious phenomenon with which the general public had a love-hate relationship.

English's assumption of such a persona—he appeared as Tosh, the Spiv, Prince of the Wide-Boys—was a masterpiece of comic appropriation. Wearing a four-fingered and spectacularly colourful kipper-tie, draped-jacket with wide lapels and accented shoulder-pads, a trilby "titter" at a jaunty angle, elongated sideburns and pencil-line moustache he delivered a stream of Cockney patter and personified the species to such an extent that he might almost have patented it.

Having established what would have seemed to be a peculiarly visual image in the variety theatres of the day, he transposed it, remarkably, to the non-visual medium of radio, becoming one of the most popular stars of such programmes as *Variety Bandbox*, *Star Show* and *Workers' Playtime*. Indeed he was so completely identified as a comic spiv that when the character went out of fashion towards the end of the 1950s, English's career almost went with it.

But, after a few lean years, he managed to re-invent himself as a comic actor, appearing most notably as Mr. Harman, the caretaker in the long-running comedy series *Are You Being Served?*, as the grumpy stablehand in the children's series *Follyfoot* and finally co-starring with Warren Mitchell as Alf Garnett's drinking partner in the comedy, *In Sickness and in Health*.

Arthur Leslie Norman English began appearing in amateur concert shows in his home town of Aldershot at the age of nine but did not become a professional performer until he was 30.

After working as an errand boy, waiter and shop assistant he served six years in the Army during the Second World War. Demobilised with the rank of sergeant in 1946 he

found work as a navy and then as a painter and decorator.

Then, in 1949 his brother Walter put his name forward for an audition to the Windmill Theatre in London.

Despite his lack of professional experience, English's Spiv act made an immediate impact on Vivian Van Damm, the Windmill impresario, and on Windmill audiences. Striding the stage, he spat out his gags at a reputed 300 words a minute. A parliamentary shorthand writer once tried to take down his words verbatim and failed. He made his first broadcast in 1950 and the following year became resident comedian on *Variety Bandbox*.

Much of his patter revolved around the shortage of housing, rationing and queuing. How to obtain luxuries were conjured up as an insuperable problem and then dismissed by the wave of a hand clutching a bundle of nylon stockings and neckties. His catch phrases—"They're laughin' at me, Mum..." "Sharpen up there, the quick stuff's coming..." were widely taken up, as was his pay off line as he left the stage—"play the music, open the cage..."

In 1951 he appeared in the Royal Command Performance alongside Gracie Fields, the Crazy Gang and Harry Secombe.

But by the second half of the 1950s things were changing. Theatres were closing as television took hold and, with the nation's affluence increasing, the spiv image no longer had the cachet it once had.

English thus took the bold decision to make the switch

from comedian to comic and then straight actor. Although not a genuine Cockney, he began playing such roles in comic plays, appearing on *Comedy Playhouse* and *Hugh and I*. He also began acting in second-feature films—playing a lorry driver in *Hijackers*, a bookie in *Echo of Diana*—and in a provincial tour of the hit stage play, *Dry Rot*.

In 1987 he joined fellow veterans Charlie Chester and Irene Handl in *Never Say Die*, a comedy series set in an old people's home, and followed the example of another comedian Frankie Howerd by playing the drunken jailer, Froch, in *Die Fledermaus* for the English National Opera.

His performance in an ITV play called *Jack Squalor's Time* in 1972 had been so effective that its author, Nick McCarthy wrote another play *Clap Hands for the Walking Dead* especially for English in which the comedian, drawing on his own experience, played a variety star who once topped the bill but was then reduced to being a bingo caller.

This was a fate that never quite claimed Arthur English although in later years he suffered much sadness.

He was profoundly distressed by the death, after 34 years of marriage, of his wife Ivy but in 1977 he married a young dancer, Teresa Mann, who was 36 years his junior. Having had two children from his first marriage, he became a father again at the age of 62. But his second marriage was dissolved in 1987.

Arthur English is survived by a son and daughter of his first marriage and the daughter of his second.

CARL MAU

Carl Henning Mau, former general secretary of the Lutheran World Federation, died of cancer in Des Moines, Washington State, on March 31 aged 72. He was born in Seattle, on June 22, 1922.

FOR an American to hold the highest international position in a Protestant denomination long dominated by German and other European clerics was highly unusual. But Carl Mau was an unusual man. Born into the sixth generation of an unbroken line of Lutheran ministers going back to 1762, he transformed the world's largest single group of Protestants from a church dominated by Germany and the United States to a full partnership of equal members around the world.

Mau's tenure as general secretary of the Lutheran World Federation, which lasted from 1974 to 1985, was often marked by controversy. At the federation's first world conference to be held in Africa, which took place in Dar Es Salaam in 1977, he pushed

through a resolution declaring the South African policy of apartheid incompatible with Christian beliefs. This was not to the liking of the South African Lutherans, mostly of German descent. The trial of strength came to a head at the world conference held in Budapest in 1984, when Mau succeeded in getting the South Africans expelled from the federation. With apartheid ended, they have since been readmitted.

There are some 60 million Lutherans divided among 120 national church bodies worldwide and Mau's efforts to forge them into a global partnership often met with opposition. There was particular US criticism over his decision to hold the federation's ruling assembly in Hungary, which was then ruled by the Communists, but after ten years in the job Mau was able to convince his critics that a policy of outreach was essential to the health of the Church.

He had already established a major reputation in Eastern Europe, having discovered that thousands of ethnic Ger-

mans living in the Soviet Union were keeping Lutheranism alive in their Siberian and Central Asian exiles, and seeing to it that they were supplied with hymnals, Bibles and ministers.

Educated at Washington State University, Carl Mau was ordained in 1946 and spent four years as a pastor in Oregon before moving to Germany as director of the federation's office in Hanover. Total fluency in the German language, plus the support of Bishop Hanns Lijl—a hero to Lutherans because of his imprisonment by Hitler for opposition to the Nazi regime—helped him to rise rapidly in the international organisation. Mau was named associate general secretary in 1964, working in Geneva. He moved to New York in 1972 as general secretary of the US national committee of the LWF, returning to Geneva to lead the organisation two years later.

He left his post in 1985 to work as an associate pastor in Washington. He is survived by his wife Thilda, two sons and one daughter.

DR RAE GILCHRIST

Dr Rae Gilchrist, CBE, physician, died on March 1 aged 96. He was born on July 7, 1899.

RAE GILCHRIST'S outstanding ability as a clinician was recognised at an early stage by his colleagues when, at the age of 30 he was elected to the fellowship of the Edinburgh Royal College of Physicians.

In 1928 he had made the first clinical diagnosis at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary of myocardial infarction confirmed at autopsy and two years later reported on seven cases. This interest in cardiology was to increase throughout

his career. As new advances in diagnosis and treatment became possible, these were introduced in his wards for assessment before becoming more widely available.

Rae Gilchrist graduated in medicine at Edinburgh University and after resident hospital appointments in Cambridge, London and Edinburgh he spent a year as resident assistant physician at the Rockefeller Hospital in New York, 1926-27, taking a particular interest in aspects of heart-block, before returning to Edinburgh.

Young doctors lucky enough to work in his unit for a few

years had much demanded of them; but papers in collaboration with A.R.G. (as he was affectionately known) would follow and they could be assured of a successful future.

At least six went on to chairs of medicine or cardiology. They learnt the importance of attention to detail, not only clinically but in preparation of papers for publication, in rehearsal of a paper to be delivered to a learned society, and the necessity for every table or slide to have a clear message.

The logical and necessary outcome of so much work was the planning and opening of the cardiology department in

Edinburgh Royal Infirmary in 1953.

Not only was A.R.G. a superb teacher. Students allocated to his wards could be assured of a thorough grounding in clinical methods and of observing the working of a logical, thorough mind assessing the problems presented.

His involvement in the Royal Infirmary took up much of each morning, while the afternoons were spent partly as medical adviser to the Caledonian Insurance Company, but mainly in private practice in which he was much in demand. His commitment to the Edinburgh Royal College of Physicians, of which he was president from 1957 to 1960, was of equally great importance to him. The success of his presidency was acknowledged widely when he was appointed CBE in 1961.

During his career he gained many other honours including election as a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of London and he was a member of many medical associations and societies nationally and internationally. He examined in medicine for all the Scottish universities, for Makerere University College (East Africa) and Baghdad as well as for the Royal College of Physicians.

His first wife died in 1967 and eight years later he married the widow of a former colleague. He is survived by her and the son and daughter of his first marriage.

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ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL

ENGLAND BEATEN AT GLASGOW

FROM OUR ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

The largest crowd ever assembled at a football match, 149,407 to be exact, saw Scotland beat England at Hampden Park on Saturday by three goals to one.

It was a grand game, and there is so much to say about it that it is difficult to know where to begin. Certainly England did not deserve to be beaten by a margin of two goals, and although it may seem ungenerous to a side which fought back with such admirable spirit after a first half which was highly unconvincing, it is difficult to resist the conclusion that the better side lost. The game fell so abruptly into two halves that they seemed less two halves of the same game than two separate games of their own. In the first it was, apart from a few inevitable raids and break-aways, nearly all England.

The first quarter of an hour of the second half saw all that had gone before turned completely upside-down. Within two minutes Scotland had equalised, and they went on to subject the English goal to a pressure intense enough to make England's first-half efforts

ON THIS DAY

April 19 1937

The crowd of 149,407 (still a British record) saw England take the lead with a goal from Steele. In the second half, O'Donnell equalised and McPhail put Scotland ahead with two more goals. The four countries championship was won by Wales.

seem positively lackadaisical. Woodley, however, played the part Dawson had played for Scotland: Male, who played a magnificent game, and Barkas—Young was not quite at his best—stood up to the storm, and after a quarter of an hour or so the fury spent itself, the game settled down for a period in midfield and all was still to play for.

It was then that England seemed to make their mistake. In the first half the English forward-line had played as an attacking unit;

now starting dropped back into a series of indecisive and, from the point of view of his own side, bewildering positions, and Carter became a kind of man-of-all-work, and a very good one too. There was still danger for Scotland every time the ball went out to the wings—Matthews and Johnson have every reason to look back with pride on their part in the 1937 match—but the cohesion had gone out of the English attack.

Scotland, on the other hand, were improving with every minute. The two inside-forwards, Walker and McPhail, were coming more and more strongly into the picture, and Delaney and Duncan were beginning to find that there were gaps in the English defence after all. It became more than probable that if a goal was scored Scotland would score it, and 10 minutes from the end, it came—with another, eight minutes later, to clinch the issue. Remembering Scotland's cloniness in the first half in holding on, their splendidly spirited counter-attacking at the beginning of the second and their final burst of brilliance, rough-and-ready justice was probably done, but the margin should have been a single goal, and the fact remains that the best of the English moves were just a little more skilful and polished than anything Scotland could accomplish.

FACILITIES
MANAGEMENT

Bristol fashion at the BBC

David Young reports on changes
in the facilities service areas

In the past few years the BBC has undergone radical change, not only in the way it manages itself, but also the way in which it selects and buys external services. This change has affected departments from make-up and studio production to facilities management. All have learnt exactly what market-testing means.

Cliff Randall, BBC property and facilities manager for the South has, for example, achieved administrative staff savings. His department — which is responsible for the BBC's radio and television premises from Canterbury to Land's End — has awarded contracts for cleaning, security and building maintenance to external contractors.

The premises which the BBC occupies in Bristol consist of 24 buildings dating from 1851 and 1989. They provide space for office staff, studios, editing suites, canteens, car parks and gardens. Mr Randall says: "Having taken the decision to market-test all the facilities service areas, we put together a detailed specification and then looked at companies that could provide services to meet that."

Mr Randall and his team opted for companies that already supplied similar services and then arranged visits to operations where those companies were working. "In the case of contract cleaning companies, Initial Cleaning Services was already responsible for cleaning similar sites and so was an obvious candidate."

"My team was impressed with Initial's expertise and its logical approach to costing. It

was awarded the contract for the cleaning of the entire premises which include a TV studio, three network and three local radio studios, film and video editing suites, dubbing theatres and outside broadcast units." Included in the Initial contract are grounds maintenance and vehicle cleaning.

Producers and senior managers agreed that Initial's staff would carry out most duties between 6am and 9am. In an operation that never sleeps, the contractor has to be flexible, particularly in those areas where production work is carried out and technical equipment has to be carefully cleaned but not disturbed.

Grounds maintenance, too, is not straightforward at the Bristol site. It is rather like tending two dozen front gardens of Victorian houses. The site on one side consists of exactly that — Victorian houses which have been converted into offices, with a connected modern office block and studio complex — which provides a challenge.

There is a full-time Initial Cleaning Services manager on site reporting to the BBC's Ian Glasspool, who manages this contract. Mr Glasspool is in daily contact with Initial personnel and also holds weekly and monthly reviews of the standard of service provided.

Set procedures detail the acceptable level of cleanliness in every area. But all staff tend to have an opinion, whether they be producers, secretaries, dubbing editors or security personnel. Since Initial took over the contract, complaints have been few and the overall cleanliness of the site has improved. The new techniques



Cleaners at the BBC's premises in Bristol have to cope with a 24-hour operation

employed by Initial have produced additional cost savings.

The cultural change within the BBC has also raised expectations. Now, producers who rent studio and editing facilities expect even higher stan-

dards and are very quick to note any failings.

"Producer Choice" means that they are responsible for the total budget and have quickly learnt to find out exactly what they are paying

for. If they purchase studio time, they expect it to be cleaned within the price.

The right level of service therefore needs to be delivered daily within the agreed price structure.

How to keep carpets
in magic condition

Even if your office carpet appears to be past cleaning, a phone call to the National Carpet Cleaners' Association (NCCA), in Leicester, may save the day. Its members repair and clean carpets.

The association has information and advice on all aspects of carpet cleaning, including regular maintenance programmes.

The NCCA keeps a geographical register of members. Paul Pearce, director of training, says: "Each member has been on an NCCA-approved carpet cleaning course and passed a written examination. We also hold refresher courses." Members have the equipment to tackle different types of carpets, ranging from synthetic fibres to wool, and even Oriental rugs.

There are five commonly used cleaning systems. Absorbent powder is a form of dry cleaning

which may be appropriate if there are under-floor cables. With the dry foam shampoo method, foam is brushed in to the pile and when dry the carpet is vacuumed. Other methods are rotary brush shampooing and bonnet buffing, which also uses the rotary brush machine, but with the addition of a cotton or nylon cover or a skimming pad. Hot water spray and extraction involves injecting a cleaning solution in to the carpet and immediately extracting it.

Burst pipes in winter always increase demand for cleaning. A special training course has been introduced on the restoration of flooded carpets. A course on treating fire-damaged carpets is also being run and the associ-

ation is setting up registers of companies qualified to offer these services.

The NCCA code of practice covers customer service, fair pricing, complaints, procedure and consumer protection. Copies are available to customers. "We do police compliance with the code of practice," Mr Pearce says.

The first line of defence, and the most effective way to save on costs, is to have a barrier system at the entrance of the building to prevent as much dirt and moisture as possible from being trodden into carpets.

Christopher Summers,

or they will become over-loaded with dirt.

Neway Manufacturing, which makes entrance matting in a choice of colours, gives a five-year guarantee if its maintenance programme is followed. This consists of daily vacuuming, weekly dry-cleaning using a bonnet and stain remover supplied by Neway and periodic clearing of the mat well.

Accidental spillages and spots on the office carpet should not be left entirely to the office cleaner. Immediate action is needed to prevent lasting damage. Any solid matter should be removed

and moisture soaked up by dabbing with white absorbent paper or a clean white cloth. Carpets should not be rubbed because it could untwist the pile. The clean should be told what was spilled so that the appropriate treatment can be given.

If the carpet is past its best, the thought of having a new carpet laid in a large open-plan office is daunting. However, there is a relatively simple answer. Relay (UK) has introduced from America an unusual system of replacing commercial carpets. It involves raising all the furniture one inch off the floor using a system of jacks and air lifting.

Alan Mowe, chief executive, says: "The cost savings are tremendous — it is two-thirds the price of normal refurbishment." The work is done at night or at weekends and, therefore, does not disrupt normal business.

BARBARA TRIGO

National Carpet Cleaners' Association (NCCA), Leicester 0116 255 4352

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Prices are on the up

Cleaning costs are likely to rise steadily in the coming year as labour costs increase and contractors face pressure to bring wage rates up from historically low levels, according to information coming in from facilities managers at leading companies.

The Times/Procord Office Costs Index for the first quarter of this year shows that cleaning costs are rising, although in most cases in line with inflation. Security costs — where wage rates have often been unrealistically low — are also showing slight increases.

However, the main area of cost rises is in maintenance. The reason for this is that many companies are now convinced that the recession is ending and are bringing forward maintenance and refurbishment programmes which had been delayed. The second explanation is that again there have been rises in labour costs in line with inflation.

Another area where large rises have been seen is in reprographics. Paper prices have risen by 10 per cent already this year and a ream of photocopier paper is now more than a third more expensive than it was a year ago.

Procord says: "The paper price impact once again leads to a significant overall cost increase. The national phone code changes should not have cost much for those who had planned well for it, but may impact on those firms only now thinking about reprinting letterheads, business cards and other corporate stationery."

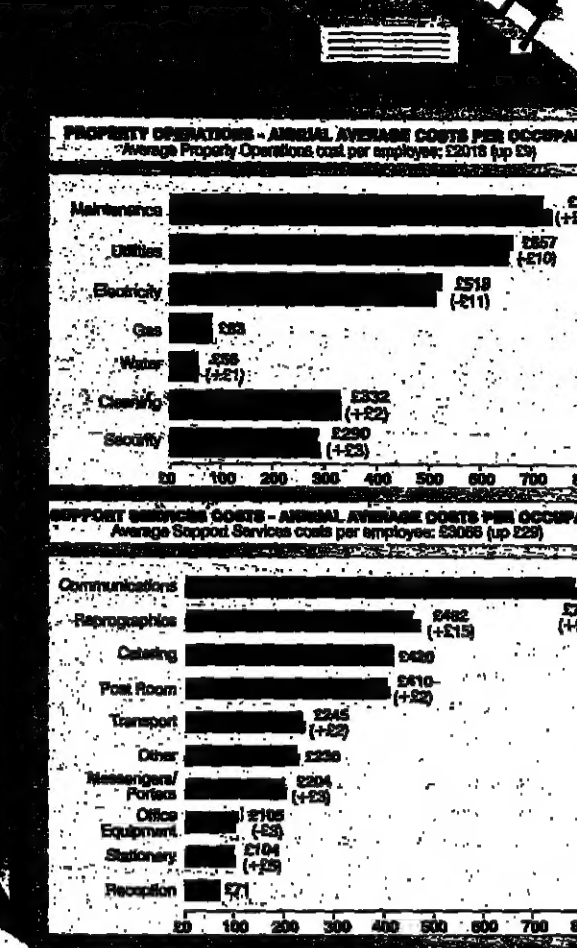
The index also shows that electricity costs have fallen with some companies having been able to achieve cost reductions of about 15 per cent — though the average has been 4 to 7 per cent. Gas prices have bottomed out and it is not expected that there will be any fresh pressure on prices for at least a year.

Communication costs have

Cleaners and security staff can look forward to improved conditions and better pay, David Young reports

THE TIMES/PROCORD OFFICE COSTS INDEX

4th Quarter 1994 1st Quarter 1995



risen, but in most cases that has been because of increased use, rather than higher charges. This quarter also sees a change in the way that the index is presented, making the information easier to follow and apply.

Barry Varcoe, of Procord, says: "The major change is to present all costs as average costs per square foot. The basis of the index has not changed. It still draws in the same controlled set of medium to high-grade office properties around Britain."

This adjustment reflects a fundamental principle regarding the way organisations

have facilities to 'facilitate' — those core activities through which they create value. Relating facilities costs to the number of people therefore focuses that cost on the primary reason it is provided. Furthermore, many costs, such as catering and security, do not necessarily relate to a building's size, so costs per square foot in these cases are of limited value.

For those elements where costs related to building area do have relevance, costs per square foot have been continued. They, in turn, have been adjusted to relate to the building's net internal area — the

area that office rents relate to.

"Previously, we had used the gross internal area. This change has been made to relate a building's cost performance more closely to that portion of it that is productively used by its occupants."

There has also been a subtle adjustment to the way in which the cost centre categories are presented. This has been done to present the information as closely as possible to the forthcoming British Institute of Management's new Measurement Protocol.

Procord has also developed a new system which allows any company to have its facilities management costs accurately benchmarked against those of similar size operating in similar areas. By using the Procord database, the system also ensures that the information used to measure a company's performance is as up-to-date as possible. Many companies in the past have found that it has only been possible to measure their costs against information that is already out-of-date.

The Procord system is based on an analysis of costs at offices covering a total area of 300 million square feet and without compromising client confidentiality. The information in the system can be used to advise a company on how its own FM costs compare against current best practice.

For under £1,000, a company can have its costs analysed and compared against those of its peer companies and receive advice from specialists on areas where high costs have been identified.

The Times/Procord index does not include location-dependent elements such as rent, rates, service charges, insurance and depreciation. Nor does it cover the costs of small project work, furniture, information technology installations and VAT. The index is based on information from 100 big office properties around Britain.

What benefits must tendering companies provide for existing staff?

Compare and contrast

retirement for each year of service. This guarantee is an onerous one when investment returns are low because the employers' contribution must be proportionally increased to provide the necessary funding.

Mr Bell says that such schemes mean that the contractor must accept open-ended commitments to staff when bidding for a contract. He also says that the situation is complicated because within the civil and public sector there are half a dozen government-funded pension schemes offering different levels of benefit, and therefore with different TUPE implications.

Cambridge Law has negotiated a number of approved "passport" schemes with the Government which provide broadly comparable benefits. Mr Bell says: "With this facility in place, we can determine the costs of providing comparable benefits to any of the government-funded pensions and employee benefit schemes."

"Within the private sector, there are no such standard employee benefit packages. Individual companies are free to choose the type and level of benefits they wish to

provide and which members of staff they want to invite into the scheme.

"However, the principle remains the same. Provided we are able to obtain information on the level of benefits provided, then a comparative package can be constructed to meet TUPE requirements."

"Again we can cost these benefits at the tender stage so that the contractor is able to reflect these in the tender price."

Mr Bell says that it is important for companies to realise that benefits need not mirror those previously provided, but that they should be broadly equivalent in value.

He adds that special consideration needs to be given by contract cleaning companies bidding for work in the public sector in view of the redundancy conditions contained in many public sector pension schemes. These vary from scheme to scheme and could potentially be costly for a contractor taking on employees who already benefit from them.

For instance, membership of the Civil Service pension scheme can often provide benefits in excess of those applied by companies in the private sector.

Mr Bell says that this means that new employers must fund these additional costs, and must also be aware of the complexity of the Inland Revenue rules which affect such compensation schemes.

"This highlights the need for companies in the facilities management business to seek independent advice so that the tender price accurately reflects the costs," he says.

DAVID YOUNG

Carried back to Australia

GEMINI Cleaning Supplies, part of the Care Group, has won an order to supply almost 1,000 of its back-carried vacuum cleaners to Australia. The cleaners, worth more than £100,000, have been supplied to Hako Australia and will be marketed under the name "Hako Matilda BacVac".

Terry Fraser, executive director of Gemini, says: "Demand for the BacVac from Australia is very significant because more than 90 per cent of all commercial carpet cleaning there is carried out with back-carried cleaners. The Australians have been quick to take advantage of the time-saving, super-efficient productivity of back-carried cleaners."

Hako found the Gemini cleaner out-performed all other back-carried vacuum cleaners on the Australian market and its quad-filtration system also allows it to be used on carpets in hospitals and other critical areas.

IN BRIEF

THE Government's private finance initiative is in danger of becoming another failed public sector efficiency programme, a conference in London was told by the commercial director of a leading computer services company.

Mark Porter, of Hoskyns, urged the Government to introduce fresh incentives for managers and called on the Public Accounts Committee to conduct a fundamental review of the Government's public procurement procedure.

These moves were essential, he said, to align the culture of the public sector with the commercial management style needed for the private finance initiative to succeed. He said that no amount of guidance, even if enforced

rigorously, would overcome the problem because restrictive practices were ingrained too deeply. "The challenge for Government is to nurture a culture of flexibility and entrepreneurialism in public sector management."

GEORGE S Hall, the energy and facilities management company, has won a £3 million a year contract to manage the new British Airways Campus Centre at Heathrow and 13 other buildings near Heathrow and in West London. The contract includes the Odyssey business park at Ruislip and the 170,000-sq ft European Catering Centre where 30,000 meals are prepared each day for short-haul flights.

THE Royal Liverpool University NHS Trust has awarded an estates and property management contract worth £18 million to Mowlem Facilities Management. For a seven-year period, MFM will take responsibility for all building maintenance including mechanical and electrical services, management of the capital programme and consultancy on strategic planning and private finance on new projects at the 800-bed acute teaching hospital.

THIS year's European conference on facilities management — jointly organised by EUROFM and the International Facility Management Association — will be held from June 11 to 13 in Frankfurt. Details from IFMA European Bureau, 83 Avenue E. Mounier, B-1200, Brussels (phone: 32-2-7729247; fax 32-2-7727237).

TARMAC ServiceMaster has teamed up with Bateman Catering to win a five-year contract, worth £6 million a year, to provide non-clinical services at Derbyshire Royal Infirmary.

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LIFTS & ESCALATORS

'A JOURNEY OF A THOUSAND LEAGUES BEGINS WITH A SINGLE STEP'

So write the step. And in Facilities Management this single step is the key to acquiring the right service at the right price.

Too many Service Managers with a responsibility to ensure clients get the best value for money, rely on personnel who do not understand the fundamental realities of their field. They operate using rules of thumb, intuition, and an "Oh well we've been alright up till now" attitude. This adaptation by Service Managers, while no doubt "efficient" in the short term, and so often serves to be a stumbling block in the current Facilities Market where the quality and flexibility of service providers is changing so rapidly, particularly in the Lift Industry. Although Elevators and Escalators are only a small part of a Facilities Management brief, you shouldn't put up with mediocre service because of a fear of change. It's not such an administrative nightmare switching to a company that offers the right maintenance package.

Take that Single Step and ask the questions...

Does your lift maintenance company provide you with:

An annual register of planned Preventive Maintenance? Enhanced Emergency Procedures? Flexible Involvement Register Status and Progress Reports? Free call out facilities? 24 Hour Access to Service Management? Security Vested Personnel? Service visits by appointment? Inflation proof prevention? Quality to your specifications?

At TOWER ELEVATORS LTD you can expect all of the above and much more, because at TOWER ELEVATORS LTD our service isn't just "Efficient" our service is "Effective".

TOWER ELEVATORS LTD are a service that's just "Efficient" our service is "Effective".
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